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This Week's Line Up

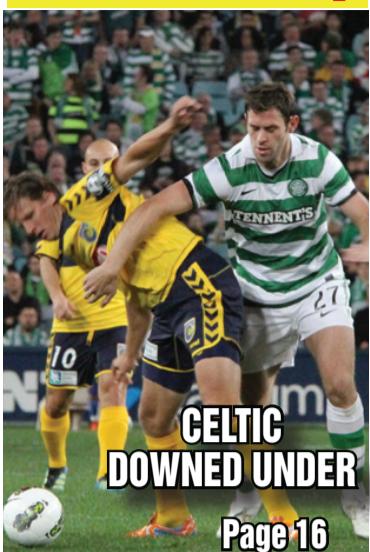
goal! weekly

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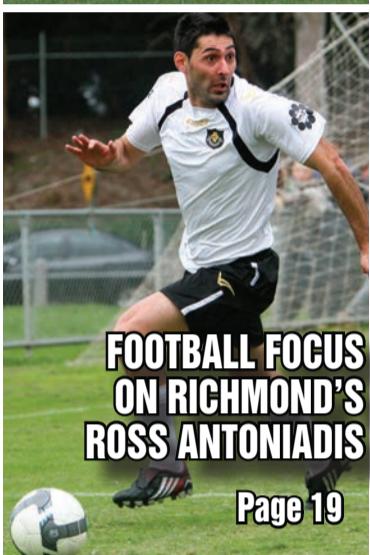
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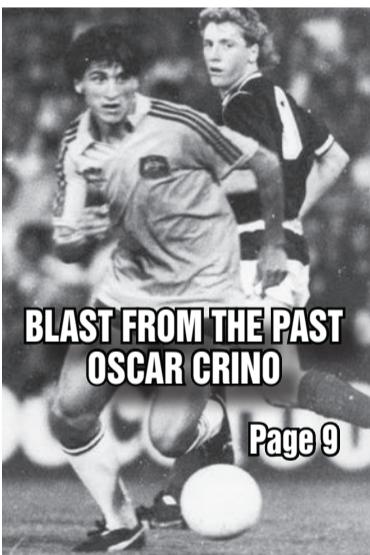
Souvenir Poster Inside
Women's World Cup



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It's not every day you get to lead your country out at the World Cup finals. Matildas captain Melissa Barbieri proudly does the honours for their opening match against Brazil.

Photo:PAUL LAU

World At Their Feet
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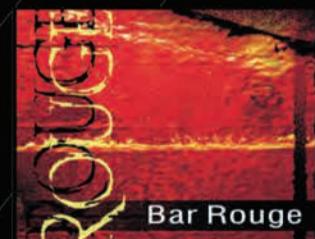
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A Week's A Long Time In Football Dept.

Dutch midfielder goes for Gold

GOLD Coast United have announced the signing of 27-year-old Dutch midfield dynamo Peter Jungschlager from leading Netherlands outfit De Graafschap.

Jungschlager was in demand with clubs from Holland, Germany and Austria all vying for his signature, but the 184cm midfielder opted for a switch to Gold Coast United and is expected to land on Australian soil in mid-July.

Renowned for his fitness levels and tenacity, Jungschlager made 79 appearances for De Graafschap, 31 of those in the Eredivisie (top division) last season.

A product of the famous ADO Den Haag youth academy, Jungschlager was voted as the most underrated player in the Eredivisie by leading Dutch football magazine Voetbal International and attracted interest from English Championship side Coventry City in April.

Equally comfortable in the wide or central midfield positions, Jungschlager represents a superb capture for Gold Coast United and takes up United's fifth and final visa spot on their roster.

Gold Coast United Head Coach Miron Bleiberg was understandably thrilled to have added such a quality player to his squad for the



Gold Coast United's new signing Peter Jungschlager

upcoming season.

"Peter's pedigree speaks for itself and we are very confident he will prove to be a first-class signing for the club," said Bleiberg.

"Players of his age who are playing first team football in a top European league don't become available very often to Hyundai A-League clubs, especially when there are other European clubs trying to sign them as well."

"Taking all that into account makes us even more delighted

and excited to have finalised this deal."

"Peter was not a fringe player at De Graafschap, he only missed three matches for them last season and that alone says a lot about his quality."

"He can play in a number of midfield roles so he brings plenty of flexibility to the squad."

Gold Coast have now signed 20 players out of the permitted 23 for the senior roster.

Socceroos to face Wales in August

Football Federation Australia (FFA) and the Football Association of Wales (FAW) have announced that the Qantas Socceroos will meet the Wales National Football Team in an international friendly match at Cardiff City Stadium, Leckwith, Cardiff on Wednesday 10 August 2011 (kick-off 7:45pm local time).

This will be the first official match between Wales and Australia at senior men's international level.

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck is looking forward to this final friendly match before starting the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign.

"Our recent matches in Australia against New Zealand and Serbia were very important in regard to team building and expanding our squad and I have some very good impressions of the players from those matches."

"The upcoming match against Wales will be our final opportunity to prepare before we begin our FIFA World Cup qualification campaign."

"The majority of players will be at the end of their pre-season or at the start of their respective

league season so it will be very important for me to see at what stage they are at when we play Wales in Cardiff."

"The draw for the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian qualification will be made at the end of July and from there we can focus on preparing for our opponents," concluded Osieck.

Wales are currently ranked 114th (as of 29 June 2011) in the FIFA World Rankings and are involved in the qualification stage of the UEFA Euro 2012 in Group F. The Qantas Socceroos draw for the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign will be made in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Saturday 30 July 2011 (Sunday 31 July AEST).

The match will be broadcast Live & Exclusive on FOX SPORTS.

Match Details

Wales v Socceroos
Wednesday, 10 August 2011
Cardiff City Stadium,
Leckwith, Cardiff
Kick-Off - 7:45pm local
(4:45am AEST)

SHORT PASSES

NEILL ACCEPTS MURRAY'S APOLOGY

Socceroos captain, Lucas Neill, has accepted the public apology issued by SBS football analyst Les Murray in a statement which confirmed that the allegations made against Neill were false. Murray has retracted from his claim that Lucas Neill instructed his team mates to defy the orders of the then Socceroos coach Pim Verbeek immediately prior to the World Cup game against Germany in Durban last year.

Lucas Neill, who is currently on holidays in the US, had the following to say, "I am obviously still disappointed that my name has been wrongly attached to these allegations, but I accept the apology that has been issued by Les Murray."

"After discussing the matter with Les, I have decided not to proceed with legal action. It was important for me to ensure that my reputation remain intact and make the public aware that I have never, nor would ever, behave in this manner towards a manager. Furthermore I'm happy that any further prints of the book will exclude this extract. I sincerely hope that anybody who reads the book in its current form understands that the allegations that were reported about me are completely false."

Joeys knocked out of U-17 World Cup

The Qantas Joeys are out of the FIFA U-17 World Cup after they were defeated 0-4 by Uzbekistan in the Round of 16 match played at Estadio Torreon.

Starting the match without Yianni Perkatis (suspension) and Jesse Makarounas (injury), Luke Remington was rewarded for his goal against Denmark with his first start of the competition.

The Qantas Joeys were also forced to play the match with only a one day rest after their last Group F match had to be replayed.

Uzbekistan controlled the match from the start and took only 11 minutes to open the scoring. Uzbek captain Abbosbek Makhstaliev received a through ball on the right and he drilled his shot low and hard to beat Paul Izzo to give his team the lead.

Uzbekistan doubled their tally in the 40th minute. Sardor Sabirkhodjaev made a run to the goal-line before crossing the ball near the penalty spot. Jacob Melling's clearance fell to Timur Khakimov on top of the box and his shot was

deflected into goal for Uzbekistan's second.

In the early stages of the second half, the Qantas Joeys had a penalty claim waved away by referee Victor Carillo after Corey Brown was tackled inside the box. Qantas Joeys Head Coach Jan Versleijen then made two attacking changes in the 55th minute bringing on Teeboy Kamara and Anthony Proia.

Things got worse for the Qantas Joeys when their key striker Dylan Tombides was shown a straight red card after he was deemed to have his studs showing in a tackle. The sending off opened up and exposed the Qantas Joeys defence leading to the third and fourth goals for Uzbekistan.

The third goal came in the 66th minute when Connor Chapman was under pressure to clear a cross from the right and forced his clearance into his own net.

Uzbekistan completed the scoring in the 87th minute when the players passed the ball around the Qantas Joeys defence before substitute Davlatbek Yarbekov placed his

shot beyond Izzo's reach.

The Qantas Joeys night of misery was completed in additional time when Kamara was given his second yellow card. Australia had to play the remaining two minutes of the match with nine men.

Speaking after the match, Versleijen pointed out that the Uzbekistan's early goal put the Qantas Joeys in a difficult position.

"It is a disappointing loss. Every loss is disappointing. Uzbekistan started well and scored early."

"We knew it would be a difficult game but that's obvious when you play in the last 16, all the teams you play have quality."

"The moments we got the goals scored against us were not in our favour and also knowing that we didn't recover completely from our last game against Denmark."

"When you go behind you need extra energy and extra forces to get back into the game and we couldn't get that today."

"It's difficult to say what part the lack of recovery had on the game, but it showed when you have to

come from behind and then get a red card, it makes it very difficult."

"When you are chasing the game, are 2-nil behind and knowing that we hadn't recovered from our last game against Denmark, then it takes a lot of mental strength for boys at 16 and 17 years of age to overcome those things."

"I think the first factor you have to look at of course is your opponent because they (Uzbekistan) were well organised, they defended very well as a unit and they were very sharp on the counter attack."

"The temperature and the lack of recovery time from the Denmark game to this game - this was also part of the result but I don't want to use these reasons as an excuse."

"We played four games in this World Cup. Four games against opponents with different styles and I think that is a very good learning opportunity to come up against those variations in playing styles", concluded Versleijen.

Match Details:
Fifa U-17 World Cup Mexico 2011
**Uzbekistan 4 (Makhstaliev 11',
Khakimov 40', Chapman 66'(Og), Yarbekov 89')**
Qantas Joeys 0
Wednesday 28 June 2011,
Estadio Torreon, Torreon, Mexico
Referee: Victor Carrillo (Peru)

Uzbekistan Line-Up: 12.Ganisher Kholmurodov (Gk), 3.Sardor Rahmanov, 5.Asiljon Mansurov, 6.Abbosbek Makhstaliev (C) (15.Jasurbek Khakimov 83'), 7.Azizbek Muratov, 8.Sardor Sabirkhodjaev, 9.Kholmurod Kholmurodov, 11.Timur Khakimov (17.Dior Usmankhodjaev 89'), 13.Bobir Davlatov (20.Davlatbek Yarbekov 22'), 14.Jaylon Mirabdullaev, 18.Muhsinjon Ubaydullaev,

Yellow Cards: Davlatbek Yarbekov 30', Abbosbek Makhstaliev 65'

Red Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil
Qantas Joeys Line-Up: 1.Paul Izzo (Gk), 2.Jake Monaco, 3.Connor Chapman (C), 4.Tom King, 5.Corey Brown, 7.Hernan Espindola, 8.Mitch Cooper (19.Mitchell Oxborow 80'), 9.Dylan Tombides, 11.Luke Remington (15.Anthony Proia 55') 17.Jacob Melling, 21.Riley Woodcock (13. Teeboy Kamara 55')

Yellow cards: Corey Brown 14', Riley Woodcock 48', Teeboy Kamara 65'

Red cards: Dylan Tombides 59', Teeboy Kamara 90'

Optus signs as FFA's Official Digital Partner

Football Federation Australia (FFA) and Optus have unveiled a new digital partnership that will change the way football fans interact with the game and their favourite teams.

Optus will create, operate, manage, market and commercialise FFA's websites, mobile websites and mobile phone applications under its appointment as FFA's Official Digital Partner following a competitive tender.

These digital channels will connect fans to the Qantas Socceroos, Hyundai A-League and the 10 Hyundai A-League clubs, Westfield Matildas and the rest of the international and domestic teams and competitions conducted by FFA.

Under the new digital agreement, the new Hyundai A-League websites will be content-rich with

video, match highlights, unique club content, latest news, in-depth statistics and analysis, fan forums and other engaging and interactive features for fans.

The mobile websites will make the game accessible for fans on the move, while newly developed mobile applications will bring a new dimension to the match-day experience.

In tandem with the new digital partnership, Optus has today renewed its sponsorship as the FFA's Official Telecommunications Partner for a further two years.

Since the beginning of its partnership with football in 2008, Optus has built a strong connection at all levels of the game. Rather than focus solely on the elite level, Optus has supported grassroots football through Optus Small Sided Foot-

ball and the recently launched Optus Small-Sided Football Awards.

FFA CEO Ben Buckley said the appointment of Optus as the FFA's Official Digital Partner was a breakthrough moment for football in Australia.

"These interconnected FFA websites, driven by Optus, will become the main portal for all Australian football fans," Mr Buckley said.

"Optus will provide us with new, powerful digital tools to interact with the 1.7 million-strong football community, market our fabulous game and expand our audiences."

"This partnership is another part of the exciting growth story for Australian football. Since signing up as official telecommunications partner in 2008, Optus has done a fantastic job in helping us grow engagement and participation in the

game. I'm delighted to have Optus as a committed partner in the next stage of our journey, as we broaden our reach beyond traditional media channels," Mr Bryan said.

Optus Digital Media Director, Austin R. Bryan said, "Optus is committed to delivering football content across a wide range of platforms.

"We know football fans have a huge appetite for compelling digital content. This was demonstrated during the 2010 FIFA World Cup when Australians watched more than 400,000 live streams, despite matches being played in the middle of the night."

"As the official digital partner of FFA, Optus will deliver a one-stop digital shop for all things football. We will leverage our digital and mobile capabilities to bring more

comprehensive and timely content to Australian football fans across a range of devices," Mr Bryan said.

Highlights of the Optus-FFA Official Digital Partnership

- Redesigned websites for all National Teams and National Competitions
- Website functionality for mobile phones
- Mobile applications
- Unique and exclusive behind-the-scenes content
- In-depth statistical analysis and interactive features for fans
- Launch of new platform to be synchronised with the launch of the Hyundai A-League Season 7, this October 2011.

SHORT PASSES

Hutchinson joins Chengdu Blades on loan

Central Coast Mariners can today announce midfielder John Hutchinson has been loaned to sister club Chengdu Blades of the Chinese Super League until October 30, effective immediately. Having played a strong shift in Saturday's 1-nil win against Glasgow Celtic at ANZ Stadium, Hutchinson has been granted permission by the Mariners to join teammate Adam Kwasnik, as well as former Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna in China. Hutchinson will return to the Central Coast shortly after the commencement of the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season.

VIC Barca Supporters Club

The FCBarcelona Supporter's Club Melbourne, the Penya Petita, will hold its first Annual General Meeting on Saturday 16 July starting at 2pm. The venue for the AGM will be the Cafe Kerynia, 354 Smith Street Collingwood. For further information contact Peter Kurg - fcbvic@gmail.com

A Tale of Two Taylors

By George Stogiannou

JUST over a week ago Dandenong Thunder had a surfeit of Chris Taylors at the club. Well, two to be exact. One was newly appointed coach Chris Taylor and the second, its ace midfield English import.

Last week the club lost both, as firstly the player Taylor, along with another import Kyle Lapham, flew home to the UK the day after Saturday's 6-0 loss to Northcote City.

Then Taylor the coach resigned on Monday after just one game in charge. The two events are not without connection as coach Taylor cited a depleted squad as his main reason for resigning.

"It's not been a falling out with the club, that's the one thing I do want to get clear," said the coach, who had replaced Perth Glory-bound Stuart Munro the previous week.

"When I hear two players such as Chris Taylor and Kyle Lapham flew home to the UK the next day (after the Northcote game) and no-one knew about it, it makes me wonder."

"Now you don't organise a flight the day before. You have

to organise it at least a week in advance. On top of that we still had no feedback on whether Jack Hingert's going to come back.

"Turning up for training on Monday, just seven senior players were available and against Northcote my first sub was someone who'd just played in the 21s. That's how depleted we are."

Taylor continued: "I know that the club's under a bit of a financial strain with the FFV. In fact they've been crucified by the FFV."

"I said to them, 'I know you're going to struggle the way things are going at the moment. I don't want to do the wrong thing by the club. I'll offer to stand down so you don't have to pay that extra wage for a coach, and just keep it in-house.'

"If I have 15 to 16 players to pick from, then I can do a job, but when I've got seven players and I have to put two or three into the team who aren't 100 percent fit, I'm not being fair to you, and you're not employing me to do my correct job."

Thunder accepted Taylor's resignation and moved quickly to appoint central defender Steven Gray as player-coach for the rest



Outgoing Chris Taylor No.1

of the season.

Club President Driton Maliku said: "With (coach) Chris Taylor we agreed to let the season go. I'm optimistic about the team under Steven Gray. All the boys have a huge respect for him. We should've went for him from the start."

"The boys are confident. If you can win four games of the remaining seven, anything can happen. We can be a chance for finals football."



Outgoing Chris Taylor No.2

Of the two players who returned to the UK, President Maliku said that they had informed the club they would be leaving two days before they left, citing family issues.

Maliku praised midfielder Taylor as an excellent player for Thunder and said Lapham had had no luck with injuries. Asked about Hingert, Maliku said he was still in New Zealand (trialing with Wellington Phoenix). "We haven't heard from him. We're unsure when he'll be back."

Clearly Thunder is undemanded at the moment. Whether it can salvage anything from this season will depend on how quickly it can get its injured players back to match fitness and how quickly the playing group can regain its shaken confidence.

At least the club's third coach in a week has the advantage of knowing the players well and the structures they have worked with all season, as well as being able to lead by example on the field.

Muscat to play for Georgies

By Vic Brincat

Sunshine George Cross and Kevin Muscat have come to an agreement that will see the football legend don the George Cross colours once again.

The former Australian international and Melbourne Victory captain Kevin Muscat signed with Sunshine George Cross on Wednesday after agreeing to play a few matches for the club over the remainder of the season.

Kevin has had a distinguished career since making his senior team debut for Sunshine George Cross at the age of 15 in the old National Soccer League in the 1989/90 season.

His involvement in the local game continued at the A.I.S. where he won the Weinstein Player of the Year Medal, Heidelberg United one season and South Melbourne four seasons, before signing for Crystal Palace in England. He helped Palace win promotion to the Premiership and played 53 matches for the club, including 9 games in the E.P.L. In 1997 Kevin moved to Wolverhampton Wanderers for \$450,000 and stayed there until 2002 playing 180 matches.

He then ventured over the border to Scotland and signed with Rangers joining Craig Moore in 2002/03 season where he helped



The day Sunshine Georgies won the A-League. Kevin Muscat returns to Chaplin Reserve to win more silverware.

Rangers to three domestic trophies. Muscat's last club in the U.K. was Millwall where he spent two seasons as captain. He led Millwall to the F.A Cup Final that season, but unfortunately for Kevin he did not play in the final having suffered a horrific injury in the semi final against Sunderland.

In all Kevin Muscat played 308 matches for four clubs in his time in the U.K. between 1996 and 2005. At the end of the 2005 season Kevin returned back to Melbourne and joined Melbourne Victory as captain in their inau-

gural A League season.

His time with Victory was filled with success with 2 championships in 4 seasons. He announced his retirement from club football on February 16 2011. The retirement was fast tracked by an 8 games suspension for that tackle on Adrian Zahra.

Kevin Muscat made his George Cross debut at Skinner Reserve when coach Ernie Merrick put the youngster on against A.P.I.A Leichardt. He played 10 games in the N.S.L. before heading to the A.I.S. He then played another 15 matches for the Georgies in 1992 when the club returned back to the Victorian Premier League.

Kevin's last game for Sunshine George Cross was at the Veneto Club against Bulleen on August 23 1992. It is fitting Kevin Muscat has decided to end his football career at the club where it all began for him some 22 years ago.

Kevin still has 3 matches left of his suspension to serve, in the meantime he will start training again to get his fitness level up to scratch. All going well Kevin Muscat will be seen at Chaplin Reserve wearing his famous Number 2 Shirt on Sunday 24 July when the Georgies take on near neighbour Western Suburbs. Exciting times ahead for all Georgie fans.

Grants up for Grabs

Sports clubs looking to weather-proof their facilities are encouraged to approach their local councils about applying for a share in \$2 million worth of Victorian Government funding, now available through the latest round of the Sustainable Sports Ground Program.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Hugh Delahunt said the grants would provide extra support to help clubs deal with the impacts of climate extremes.

"In recent years Victorian metropolitan, regional and country clubs have been doing it tough, with facilities battling to cope with climate extremes, including drought and floods," Mr Delahunt said.

"This program provides the cash boost needed for sports clubs to develop long term, sustainable, low water use community sporting facilities that are better equipped to deal with future climate challenges.

"From water recycling and storm water harvesting to drought resistant turf and the installation of synthetic playing surfaces for sports such as soccer, hockey, lawn bowls and tennis, the Sustainable Sports Ground Program helps local sport to not only survive, but to thrive.

"By helping communities to improve the quality, water

efficiency and sustainability of local facilities, the program also encourages even greater participation for all Victorians at local clubs.

"More people will be able to enjoy the health benefits of getting more active, more often and clubs can cater for more members all year round."

Mr Delahunt said the Victorian Government was proud to invest in the sustainability of local sporting facilities.

"By working together with local clubs via councils we can support higher levels of use and participation at local sporting facilities, whatever the weather brings," Mr Delahunt said.

"If you are part of a local club looking to better protect your facility from the effects of weather extremes please contact your local council, develop a proposal and have them apply for the funding on your behalf," Mr Delahunt said.

Up to \$100,000 is available for each project.

Applications close Wednesday 10 August 2011.

For more information about the Sustainable Sports Ground Program, visit www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au

SHORT PASSES

Kicking goals at Victorian Architecture Awards
AAMI Park stadium scooped the pool at the weekend's Victorian Architecture Awards, winning the Victorian Architecture Medal, the William Wardell Award for Public Architecture, the Melbourne Prize and the Colourbond Award for Steel Architecture.

BRISBANE ROAR AND 2XU JOIN FORCES

Brisbane Roar has signed a one-year partnership with leading Australian compression sports apparel provider 2XU.
2XU will supply compression garments to Brisbane's Hyundai A-League, Westfield W-League and National Youth League squads.

Young Socceroos squad for Blacktown training camp announced

Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen has announced an 18-player squad that will go into a training camp at Blacktown next week (2 to 7 July 2011). This will be the last Australian-based training camp before the final squad is selected which will compete at the FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011.

With Versleijen currently overseas with the Qantas Joeys at the FIFA U-17 World Cup Mexico 2011, Qantas Young Socceroos Assistant Coach Ante Milicic will be in charge of this training camp which will include a training match against the Central Coast Mariners on Thursday 7 July. The final Qantas Young Socceroos squad that will travel to the FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 is expected to be announced on Monday 11 July. The FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 commences on 29 July with the final to be played on 20 August.

Young Socceroos – Squad List

Blacktown Training Camp – 2 to 7 July 2011

Matthew Acton (gk) / Brisbane Roar
Mustafa Amini / CC Mariners
Terry Antonis / Sydney FC
Jake Barker-Daish / Gold Coast Utd
Mark Birighitti (gk) / Adelaide United
Daniel Bowles / Brisbane Roar
Kofi Danning / Brisbane Roar
Matthew Fletcher / Uncontracted
Petar Franjic / Melbourne Victory
Sam Gallagher / CC Mariners
Jason Geria / Brisbane Roar
Rhyan Grant / Sydney FC
Brendan Hamill / Melbourne Heart
Bernie Ibini-Iseki / CC Mariners
Ben Kantarovski / Newcastle Jets
Dylan McGowan / Gold Coast United
Dimitrios Petratos / Sydney FC
Trent Sainsbury / CC Mariners

FFV Zone Representative and Standing Committee Elections

Nominations are now open for FFV zone representatives and standing committees. This is your opportunity to shape the future direction of football in Victoria. Nominations close on Tuesday 5 July. For more information visit the FFV website.

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Danning signs for Roar

Brisbane Roar's attacking stocks have received a massive boost ahead of the Hyundai A-League season with attacking young gun Kofi Danning signing a two-year deal with the club.

An Australian representative at U20 and U23 level, Danning's youth and speed make him an ideal addition to Head Coach Ange Postecoglou's championship-winning squad.

"Kofi is someone we highlighted at the end of last year and I think he'll fit into our system well so it's pleasing that he's finally signed for us for a couple of years," Postecoglou said.

"We've got a lot of work to do with him but he fits into our style of game really well and I think he'll develop into a real attacking weapon for us over the next twelve months."

"We're quite confident in the style of player he is and the type of person he is so I'm sure he'll do really well for us."

The former Sydney FC player was ecstatic to be in the Queensland capital, delighted to have the opportunity to learn and develop as a footballer under the guidance of Postecoglou and his coaching staff. "I'm so excited to be here and to start a new season and a whole new experience," Danning said.

"I've spoken to Ange and he sees me developing here and sees me improving my game and sees me getting opportunities, which is good for me because that's all I want."

"I want to prove myself to everyone, that's why I've come to Brisbane – to do the best I can and to



Kofi Danning in Sydney FC colours during their recent Asian Champions League campaign. Photo: GEOFF JONES

make people proud."

While the 20-year-old was one of the many who marvelled in the heroics of his new club's historic Grand Final victory in March, Danning said it didn't factor into his decision to move north.

He instead named his development as the biggest reason he put pen to paper with the Brisbane club.

"I think looking at their success from last year, I had to put that aside and think about what I wanted to do as a player and think about how I wanted to improve and that's why I made this decision," he said.

"In the last two years, I haven't been progressing and I haven't had much game time," he said.

"I need to start improving and I think coming here will allow me to do that."

Coach Postecoglou said Danning had the potential to be one of Brisbane Roar's key players.

"He's got to take that challenge, it won't be easy to break into our team but we try and target young players who we think have the potential but haven't had the opportunity," he said.

"Hopefully that hunger drives him to improve and our goal is to get as much improvement out of him as possible and I'm sure once he gets used to the way we play, he'll be a big contributor."

Born in Ghana, Danning emigrated to Australia at the age of seven and after a year with the Australian Institute of Sport in 2007, he made 22 appearances for the Sky Blues, scoring three goals including one against the Roar.

Good governors of the game or greedy dictators?

By Roy Hay

The administrative leadership of major sporting bodies comes in for a great deal of criticism these days, some of which is warranted and some perhaps not. When you scan the newspapers, you sometimes wonder whether there are parallels with what is happening in other contexts and, while it may be regarded as totally fanciful, I got to thinking there was something in common between our sports administrators and another group in the news.



firm conspired to run a cartel to force up prices in the paper packaging industry for which he and his firm were heavily fined. At Carlton football club, on the other hand, he took part in a sporting cartel whose regulations constitute a major restraint of trade, justified in terms of its necessity for the operation of the game of football.

These sports leaders share certain characteristics with middle-eastern dictators currently under challenge by their populations. They have mostly insulated themselves from popular election, at best being chosen by a relatively small coterie of insiders to the sport. They use their power or influence to extract very large sums of money from the taxpayers of the countries in which they operate, some significant proportion of which goes to reward them and their henchpersons with disproportionately large incomes. They use their political power to bend other sources of authority to their will.

They have privileged tax status in their countries and receive massive overt and covert public subsidies. Take a couple of local examples. The new stadium at Carrara on the Gold Coast cost roughly \$140 million. Of that the federal, state and local governments put up \$130 million and the AFL contributed \$10 million. The Football Federation Australia received \$45 million of public money for its failed bid to host the World Cup in 2022, losing out to a middle-eastern politico-sports leader who is currently under investigation for bribery. Qatar, to general surprise, won the competition despite the higher technical merit of both the United States and Australian bids as determined by FIFA's own assessment process.

Of course there are differences. These sports leaders are not in unfettered control of their countries. They are subject to the laws of the land in a way that the dictators are not, though the sports which they govern have many dispensations in practice from those laws. Think for instance of Richard Pratt whose

In Australia the AFL players' share of revenue has fallen from 27 per cent in 2001 to 20 per cent in 2011. In the NRL the players' share has been constant around 22 per cent of revenue in the last four years. Rugby Union between 2005 and 2008 paid its players between 18 and 20 per cent of total revenue. Australian elite soccer players have received between 21 and 29 per cent of total revenue including government grants between 2006 and 2010. This calculation includes the separate agreements for the Socceroos and the A-League. The share of A-League players alone is higher at 48 per cent in 2009-10. Ordinary workers in Australia have seen their incomes rise in the last decade, whereas footballers have gone backwards in relative terms. All this data is taken from a detailed study undertaken by Dr Graham Dabscheck, on behalf of the Australian Athletes Alliance, who concludes, 'To the extent that leagues experience financial problems it is not due to the payments made to players.'

Then there are the fans, who are expected to pick up increased ticket prices, to succumb to high-pressure merchandising of replica shirts which change every year and to be bombarded with artificial noise and exhortations at games which drown out the atmosphere they used to create themselves. While Australians may feel that the right to gamble is part of their heritage, it is worrying when sports now aggressively promote gambling on and during matches and need gambling revenue in the way they used to depend on tobacco.

Perhaps it is time for a bit of participatory democracy in sport on the part of the players and the fans.

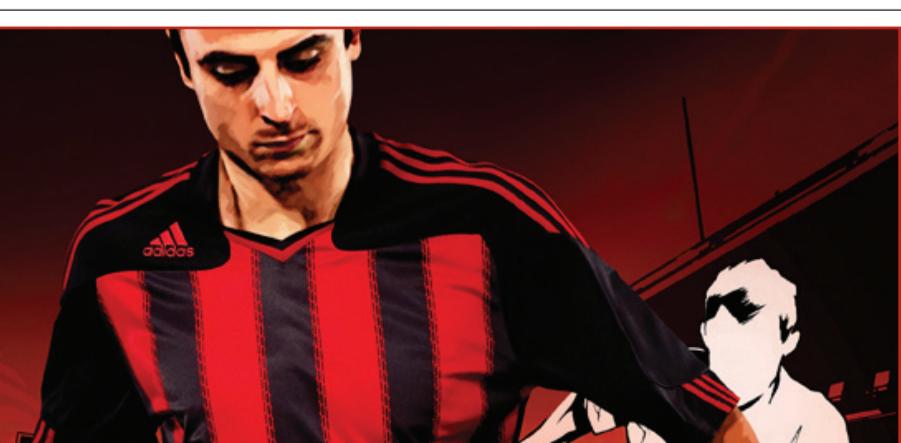
Flores departs for China



Marcos Flores takes his Johnny Warren Medal and heads for China. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

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River Plate: The crisis that began long ago

By Francis Fields

Close to midnight in Buenos Aires and there is fear when going out. This is what several local daily newspapers highlight online as violence strikes across the city.

Some reporters say it reminisces the violence and terrorism during curfews up to three decades ago. Who would have thought River Plate and football would bring it back.

This past week, authorities banned the damaged Monumental stadium for up to a year so River Plate will not be able to compete at their colossal home ground as a result of the riots caused by their fans or "hinchas" walking from the Monumental stadium towards the landmark Obelisco after last week's loss to Belgrano.

In central Buenos Aires where at other times were scenes of jubilation for River Plate faithfuls, shout in disgust, despair and anger destroying basically everything in their path.

Efforts by police are not effective to control the dismay with bullets, teargas and sirens sounding aloud. The central feeling across the thousands is anger of course, anger for being robbed, sadness and hatred from a mass of people, a mass of loyal supporters who feel did not deserve this relegation.

On a day like Sunday 26th of June, exactly fifteen years ago, River Plate achieved their last Copa Libertadores title defeating América de Cali at their local Monumental stadium by 2-0. Now, this time round River needed the exact scoreline to revert their dreadful relegation-bound home and away leg series but to no avail, in order to maintain its top flight status, River Plate saw blood spew.

What is going on at the club shows the incompetent board members, José María Aguilar firstly without any hesitation to mention. The youth system went in particular has gone to scraps. An infrastructure that was once so rich for talent, for an easy if not to say, abundant way to select local hopefuls trying their luck even coming from the provinces.

That important stimulus has now been overlooked and look at the price the club has paid. Football has revenges though. Now Adidas confirmed on Tuesday its merchandise contract will remain intact, honouring the club's terms.

Still no news on fellow endorsers, Brazilian oil company Petrobras and home-ware manufacturer Tramontina. From the coaching ranks, former legendary player Juan José López has stepped down and has completely left the club. His tenancy kept him very busy, more stressed and preoccupied with saving River Plate from the drop than anything else, especially sticking to playing the ball and attacking, getting games under the belt and most importantly results. A real shame with a coach that instilled attractive football nevertheless the lack of results.

Alleged security inside the Monumental stadium handling the selling of merchandise, the involvement in previous management into the decision-making of the club's buying and selling of players went up the roof. The positives are at least that these fans, in true South American fashion, remain loyal to a club, can destroy an institution whilst they love it all the more. A wild paradox but fans do demand. They idolise little towards its players therefore the football culture is more active rather than passive.

Being a football fan in South America as it should be comes from the heart, from the blood, from one's decision-making, faith, family, right from the soul and not from marketing, not from buying yourself a membership, a pass, a ticket, a jersey or anything similar. It cannot be bought.

A despicable, sad tale to tell and a reality River Plate should have handled far better to set an example for the rest of the country. That failure lead to more mistakes at the board, more mistakes from the coaching staff and ultimately mistakes on the pitch that saw River Plate concede more and more goals.

The lack of firepower up front from players coming in from stints particularly in Europe meant a total mismatch. Any given player to return from



Too good to go down? The unthinkable actually happened to River Plate and were relegated last weekend.

any professional club in any division in the Old Continent must raise immediate questions: Why is the player returning home? To recover regular playing matches? Was the player simply not consistent enough? Were the different football styles not adaptable?

Daniel Passarella is also somewhat a cancerous tumour at River Plate.

Once benign, showing his former captaincy as a prime leadership quality, his inability to step down along with his arrogance and pride is taking toll.

So-called idols were rightly treated as such and have truly shown themselves with their once finesse touches on the ball. The names overflow and the recent ones like Uruguayan Enzo Francescoli, Ariel Ortega, Marcelo Gallardo and retired Chilean forward Marcelo Salas left during the past decade or so hung up their boots either in glory or through the back door and the very latter is an issue to the core of River Plate's problems.

It is a lack of respect similarly to a long-service leave gone terribly wrong. The laundering of money, the abuse of power stepped in and the inability to maintain balance, better said harmony and structure in the pyramid of a football organisation from Passarella and former successful coach Ramón Diaz sparks the very feud.

Díaz and Passarella do not even exchange faces. A situation like this is basically impossible to work with in a football club. Another clear-cut scenario that has sent the Millionaires down the drain is the constant appointment and discharge of managers, of coaches.

Another error at his helm was appointing Ángel Cappa, a coach who lacks tenacity to coach a club like River. Some coaches are simply not flabbergasted to have such a role at a big club. A manager needs structure, a style as every coach develops his own plus character, psychology, the right mix of innovation with experience, vision, patience, knowledge of the game, passion or motivation and most importantly, a methodology to pass it in the dressing rooms onto his players. Cappa lacked most importantly the latter, to put it quite simply, an intelligent coach just not fitting for a once ambitious club.

Ramón Díaz or Américo "Tolo" Gallego could have done just that. They both know what it means to be at River Plate. The experience of being a former player not only with hundreds of matches under their belts but success and glory on top of it all was just what River needed and Passarella gave them the cold shoulder with outnumbered excuses or perhaps, valid reasons. Too

late now.

Leonardo Astrada, another former player and coach had a brief stint and just that. Not much was done under him, not much could he do either and he is much-loved among fans and the club itself. So is that what you do to your loved ones?

Surely, the pay packet he pocketed leaves him unaffected but the credibility and respect, where does that go?

The humiliation also comes by the way the Argentinian league is biased in favour of the established teams. Two short, separate championships are played per year and relegation is worked out on an average of points accumulated over three years, or six championships. This was no blip.

Relegation comes at the end of three disastrous years for River Plate, who are £15m in debt and are reputed to be under the control of a powerful hooligan element.

Going back to that long name in José María Aguilar; the words thief, taint, defile, corrupt, shameless and many other similar terms put him as the ultimate nail in the coffin under the appalling behaviour of mismanagement of a club left in tatters.

Who will take the club if and when Passarella leaves? What will be next board be like? Will it promise too much change? What direction, what projections will it undertake for it to move forward and return to top flight status in the next three years. Only, if only the football improves on the park with results that is.

It looks very grim. Those teary eyes from the typically ego-filled names from club greats and now retired captain Matías Almeyda who has quickly decided to take up coaching in replacement of Lopez and goalkeeper Juan Pablo Carrizo sobbing after the Belgrano loss in front of photographers are there to be seen by all and to be remembered.

What will tomorrow say about future star, the last current rookie in the talent of Erik Lamela still interesting AC Milan?

This dark experience from a club that used to privilege itself from buying outright international stars, nurturing Argentinean internationals on the other hand and chasing titles will affect, leave far too big of a mountain to climb and not only will the players be pressured with their football careers but their lives as well.

What is in the mind inside Daniel Passarella. Currently at home under police guard, the fact that River Plate has gone down is not the issue. He must

have surely hypothetically already drawn out a map of the club going down. Maybe it is all planned with the Argentinean Football Association. The very system that biased to favour the so-called big clubs.

The club will lose from its existing deficit, insurmountable amounts due to television rights of its matches.

River Plate cannot afford to lose 4.75 billion dollars and it will spanning into the next three years.

Therefore River Plate's bank accounts will have to rely heavily on creating just a break-even before any passage above the red on the way it will work with the youth. Development in youth football literally is priceless. Only a billion will be left, dividing it all up among the cost of grants for the stadium, taxes, bills, payroll for its staff, sponsorship, endorsements, the unorthodox money to its hardcore fans and the other costs that all add up does not leave much.

Now, another name in Carlos Avila, a businessman with the best interests in the players -funnily enough does stand out in the world of football. He guaranteed River Plate's troops, who did the hard job of getting themselves out from the dug-out in the traditional coloured strip onto the field and lost fair and square to defend their players' working rights.

Eight months have gone and yet no money has been paid. More than 3 million in extras are also due. Last Monday, the players alongside Avila went out to press their rights in action.

Another factor is the devaluation of the squad. A few years' back the club directors rejected an offer for Rogelio Funes Mori abroad for 6 million where today he is only worth two. Funes Mori, now legally a second division player will undoubtedly deflate.

Ticket prices in first division are equivalent to 12 Australian dollars. The Nacional B, the second tier allocates their pricing at just under ten. Another significant loss of more than a million. The most successful club side in Argentina holds a restaurant, a café, a school, an academic tertiary course in sports journalism, along with other sporting disciplines like volleyball, tennis, basketball, futsal for both men and women. More than a thousand employees are staffed.

All this setup will be jeopardised and affected.

Porto's Europa League success were mostly pinned by Colombian Radamel Falcao. He came from River. Now, former boss José María Aguilar, rumoured to have escaped the country a fugitive

because of his eight-year tenure that has left the club in crisis sold the forward to the Portuguese club for 5 million Euros and failed to find a replacement. Why? For wanting more money for his own interest on top of his lack of knowledge of the game, simple.

Imagine with the use of technology, your team gets relegated and of course, think about Facebook for example. Your team gets flooded with comments from rival fans. Boca Juniors supporters did just that up to two months ago when all this was bound to happen. Is it part of the game to make fun, mocking the current chaotic situation? Yes. Too much of it, hurts.

Boca Juniors fans were brave enough to reunite at River's Monumental stadium with white candles lighted among other disrespectful acts to honour the club's demise, the club's death is directly a self-destructing allusion for River Plate and a provocative act for yet more violence whilst it was going out of control in the city's centre.

Read this carefully, River Plate was the one club throughout the recent Clausura - or closing championship in Argentina's top professional division that packed out stands to full capacity. The average supporter filled the 80,000 stadium at every home game, a few less, give or take.

Close to two and a half thousand "celestes" supporters travelled down to the nation's capital and could not celebrate until three hours after the match which ended in the one-one draw.

The destruction left at the Monumental was for all to see and where passions heat up, tempers arise, history was made.

Unfortunately, those laughing are of course Belgrano not to mention whom with all credit, deserve the promotion.

See, in Argentina there is no doubt like many other high-profile football leagues that certain club board members attain their signatures and their shameful faces into dictatorial decisions.

Who is the true victim? The fans. Many struggle to make a living on a monthly basis remember, many, in the thousands who fill the stands, play their part for the team despite the unfix and inconsistent ticket prices and much to the dismay of this proud but harsh reality, succumb to the pockets of those running at the helm.

Egos and pride need to stand aside. River Plate can be a vaguely tagged as victim of poor management along with vague purchases on the transfer market.

The array of youth talent at disposal from a club that has its own football

academy, even an educational school and not come up with solid answers to what many clubs can go through when short of a squad.

According to journalists across South America, to these reporters who have the privilege to many football followers to live and breathe such passion and events first-hand can testify to inexplicable transactions within the intermediaries of River Plate not only a sporting club, a football club, but as an institution.

River Plate is known across generations as a team that plays beautiful football, for playing the ball on the ground, for exquisite passing, for team-building, for its elegance and today all this stand to very little avail and as a utopia, a kind of poor, bad, sour taste of a joke.

An energetic commentator by the name of Victor Hugo Morales, a Uruguayan by origin but a Buenos Aires resident criticised on the airwaves, live to the nation and to millions worldwide via the internet that many of the culprits lie also to commercial journalists, his colleagues.

Morales insisted in dramatic fashion that one faction of the fourth estate in the media that simply does not care about the media itself but rather, its interests. To the journalist that only cares about selling, about covering stories on clubs and teams that sell.

The well-respected commentator emphasised how and why media institutions like TyC Sports or Olé newspaper turned a blind-eye to such an evident crisis.

One ascertained explanation to this very intelligent proposal is to maintain the public in suspense. Not only this occurred to River Plate. Vélez Sarsfield was crowned champion two weeks ago but two Sundays ago, the front page featured a crying Martín Palermo after his farewell at La Bombonera to distract readers emotionally.

Whether your knowledge of Argentinian football is vast or not, since when has this ever been characteristic of their football fan-base culture?

Third division to lower non-leagues like Australians are familiar with in the United Kingdom are bolstered with "hinchadas", with loyal fan bases, with a quality of football as competitive to spur Cinderella-like success stories in cup competitions so then today, since editors, sub-editors, chief executives and reporters publish such article and front pages strictly to sell, there is a moral, ethic and human-value issue at stake. The story covers how River Plate got relegated and not how Belgrano went up.

Few, those objectively thinking can mention the Córdoba side's victory.

Morales is a commentator with dignifying character, a noble professional in the game who balanced out both team's performances on the airwaves in contrast to Fox Sports where editing out-jumped with background music akin to the classical Ode of Joy by Beethoven on its live broadcast, as it notoriously does while River Plate fans were smashing the stands in violent clashes with police straight after the full-time whistle.

There is a crisis deeper than many thought at the club. Its budget will only keep reducing, a credibility at stake so who will want to fork out and sponsor the club?

Next month when the Apertura - opening championship gets underway, the more humble stadiums and pitches the River Plate players will have to step onto will be a tough ask to challenge and with a club with very little to keep its costs with along with its overwhelming sponsorship contracts surely to plummet and likely to disappear, a second division side or a "Nacional B" as properly coined in Argentina is of course not the same to a club in the first division.

Being passionate and loyal has never been a crime. Nor has it been to be Argentinean or a River Plate "hinchada". In six week's time, second division kicks-off and those players that will come out for the club for the first time away from the top flight will be serving time to train hard, play hard and bail out. So what is the whole point in this media-driven farcical show?

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Croatia

Having only recently arrived in Split, Ljubo Milicevic is already a fan favourite at Hajduk. He even wore the captains armband in a friendly match, something he has done in nearly every club he's played at.

"We are working hard every day. Even though we are exhausted, I love all this and I'm satisfied with how things are going at the moment," Milicevic said.

Another Aussie born Croat Josip Simunic is linked with a move to the club and Ljubo would love to see him wear the 'White' of Hajduk and battle alongside Joe in the Croatian League.

"If he came that would be SUPER! Joe is a world class player, he's gone through a lot in his career in the clubs he's played for and been very successful. It would be an honour if I could play alongside Simunic, I think I would learn a lot more from a world class player like him," Milicevic said.

Milicevic will also have the privilege of playing against European Champions Barcelona in a pre season friendly at Hajduk's Poljud Stadium on the 23rd of July. It will be one of the biggest matches in recent years for Hajduk and something to treat their suffering fans that have not seen a League Title

Milicevic Takes Charge at Hajduk



Ljubo Milicevic dons the captain's armband upon arrival in Split.

in the last five years. It's also a long way from playing against the likes of North Queensland, Wellington Phoenix and co. Not rated in Australia but well respected in Europe.

There has been a great deal of Aussie Croats which have been major stars of the Croatian League. The first was Eddie Krnecic who won the Yugoslav League and Cup with Dinamo in 1982. Mark Viduka was one of the best strikers in the league when he also wore the blue colours of Dinamo in the 90s. Josip Skoko was a vital part of the Hajduk team in the 90s and the last ten years. He wore the captains armband in his last season at the club.

Hajduk has also made some in-

teresting signings this season with the acquisition of former Liverpool youngster Nikola Saric. The 20 year old has been touted as the next Ibrahimovic. He is a Danish Youth International but has the opportunity to play for either Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia and of course Denmark. There is a long way to go before he can choose for what country he will play for but with some good performances In the Hajduk shirt that wont be long away. His strike partner is Montenegrin International and former Buducnost Podgorica Captain Ivan Vukovic another great signing for the 'Whites' He is their biggest signing to date costing the club 700,000 euros and has already made an immediate impact with a

few goals in friendly matches.

The Croatian League kicks off on July 23rd with Hajduk playing their match four days earlier because of the much anticipated friendly against Barcelona.

RD1
DINAMO – INTER-ZAPREŠIĆ
CIBALIA – SPLIT
SL.BELUPO – ZAGREB
KARLOVAC – ISTRA 1961
OSIJEK – RIJEKA
LUCKO – ZADAR
HAJDUK – ŠIBENIK
VARAŽDIN – LOKOMOTIVA

Serbia
FK Rad has made a fantastic start to their European adventure with a 6:0 first leg win against

San Marino's Tre Pene in the Europa League Round 1 Qualifiers. Two of the goalscorers for Rad were former Red Star youth players in Prso and Mrkela. Milan Prso is the nephew of former Monaco, Rangers and Croatian International Dado Prso.

Red Star has made a couple of interesting signings for the new season. Brazilians Pasheko and Mazenga from Flamengo and former Red Star captain Nenad Kovacevic from RC Lens. They are very important players for the club and it will rely on the goals from the Brazilians and the experience of Defensive Midfielder Kovacevic who returns to the club after 4 years in the French League.

Serbia International Radosav Petrovic has departed Partizan and will now be wearing the black and yellow of Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem. It was a strange move as Partizan has on numerous occasions suggested big clubs from all over Europe are interested in the midfielder but at the end of the day he was sold to the Dutch club which battled relegation last season for approximately 3 million euros. Another midfielder in Ljubomir Fejsa has departed the Serbian Champions and will now wear the red and white of Greek Champions Olympiakos. Fejsa missed out all of last season and the move was another huge shock. Fejsa arrived at Partizan for 1 million euros from Hajduk Kula two years ago but only managed to play 15 games due to numerous injury problems.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

With Argentina facing a humiliating defeat to Bolivia in the opening game of the Copa America, host Argentina were rescued when coach Sergio Batista brought on substitute Sergio "Kun" Aguero in the 70th minute.

Within 10 minutes of entering the game, Aguero had probably scored the goal of the tournament with a volley one would have expected to see contrived on the beaches of Rio Di Janeiro in the game of "footvolley".

Argentina's Nicolas Burdisso chested the ball to Aguero from a cross from Marcos Rojo and the ball was acrobatically volleyed into the roof of the Bolivian goal. Within the 20 minute period that "Kun" was on the pitch, Argentina had Bolivia on the back foot, and one would expect Aguero to be a starter in all of Argentina's games from here on in.

Prior to the kick-off, only the Serie A's Juventus had formally entered discussions with Atletico Madrid to meet a July 04 deadline for negotiations to transferring Aguero without having to meet the 45 Million Euro get-out clause in his contract. With his goal in the Copa America and likely more to follow, Atleti will be able to pull back and demand the full 45 Million Euro, with Europe's top spenders Manchester City and Chelsea now all over "Kun" like a rash. Santos'

Brazilian prodigy Neymar has declared his intention to join Real Madrid, but with the move destined to be postponed a season until the 19 year old matures a little more, there is still the possibility of Spain's big two clubs Barcelona and Real Madrid also entering the new bidding war. So respected is Aguero by his Argentine teammate Lionel Messi, Messi is personally attempting to the sway the Atletico striker toward Barcelona, who still haven't completed a proposed move for Arsenal's Cesc Fabregas, and have left the door open for "Kun".

The major news out of the La Liga in the past week, is really no news at all. Big names rumored to be on their way out of their respective clubs have all denied the talk, and pledged their loyalties to their owners. This includes Barcelona's David Villa and Thiago Alcantara, Real Madrid's Gonzalo Higuain and Karim Benzema and Atletico Madrid's Diego Forlan. Even Real Madrid's on-loan Emmanuel Adebayor is pleading with Real Madrid for an extension to his loan deal.

Espanyol's striker Daniel Osvaldo has been a transfer target both in La Liga and the English Premiership, but his club has declared the player is not for sale.

Euro Wrap



Alex Luttrell

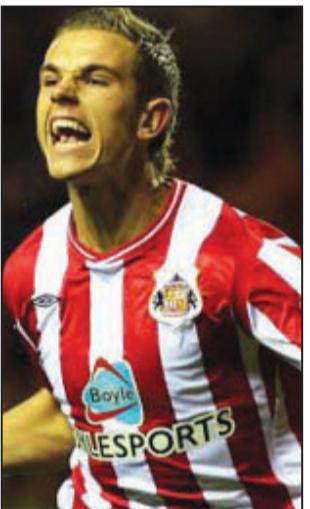
Well, the European transfer window is well underway and in the last few months the football world has seen some outstanding rumours; some which have come to fruition and others which have fizzled.

The most anticipated transfer rumour was the signature of Brazilian and Santos 19 year-old Neymar to Real Madrid, Chelsea or Manchester City, who were prepared to pay his \$60 million release clause from Santos. However, his club has taken him off the market and have denied any possibility of selling their star. Neymar has come out and said he will see out his contract.

Perhaps the busiest side in the English summer transfer season thus far is Manchester United who has completed two well known signings in **David De Gea** from Atletico Madrid for \$25 million as well as renowned Aston Villa and England midfielder **Ashley Young** for \$24 million. United also signed Blackburn's Phil Jones for \$25 million.

At league rivals Liverpool, who has vowed to only make signings for the "future", have signed Sunderland youngster **Jordan**

European Transfer Market In Full Swing



Jordan Henderson joins Liverpool



Miroslav Klose moves to Lazio



Ruud returns to Spain with Malaga

Henderson for \$30 million, in adhering to this promise. Over at Arsenal, Wegner is days away from completing the signing of Lille striker Gervinho, with only a few more details to be addressed.

Elsewhere in England, **Scott Carson** has moved to Bursaspor, **Jamie O'Hara** completed his move from Tottenham to Wolves for \$7 million and **Kevin Nolan** has left Newcastle for West Ham.

Johan Elmander was released to Galatasaray from Bolton, **Brad Friedel** left Villa for Spurs, **Michael Mancienne** has been sold by Chelsea after a three year loan to Hamburg in

the German Bundesliga for an undisclosed fee. **Demba Ba** has also been released by West Ham to Newcastle.

Also in England, Manchester United has loaned out **Bebe** to Besiktas, **Philipp Degen** has returned to Liverpool from his Stuttgart loan and **Craig Bellamy** has returned to Manchester City from his Cardiff loan.

Remaining English rumours are still rife however, with Liverpool still vigilantly after the signatures for Roma keeper **Alexander Doni**, Wolfsburg midfielder **Diego** and Blackpool's **Charlie Adam**. Arsenal are in strife with Manchester City targeting **Samir Nasri** and **Gael Clichy**, Dortmund looking at **Nicklas Bendtner** and Barcelona looking at **Cesc Fabregas** as usual with an offer of 27 million pounds turned down short of his 40 million valuation.

Also, Real Madrid is set to sign **Adebayor** after his loan deal from Man City. **Didier Drogba** has been looked at by Galatasaray and Real Madrid is dismissing the possibility of selling right back **Sergio Ramos**, despite rumoured interest from Premier League powerhouses Manchester City, Chelsea and Manchester United.

In Italy transfers are just as rife

with a huge amount of signings being made. Juventus has signed **Simon Pepe** from Udinese for \$10 million, as well as **Fabio Quagliarella** from Napoli for \$14 million and acquired **Andrea Pirlo** from AC Milan on a free transfer. Juventus however lost **Sebastian Giovinco** to Parma for \$5 million.

Roma have acquired **Bojan Krkic** from Barcelona and **Marco Borriello** from AC Milan, each for \$13 million. Elsewhere **Adrian Mutu** moved to Cesena from Fiorentina and **Miroslav Klose** has completed his transfer from Bayern Munich to Lazio; both on free transfers.

In Spain, Malaga has acquired a number of players including **Ruud van Nistelrooy** from Hamburg, **Jeremy Toulalan** from Lyon (\$13 million), **Joaquin** from Valencia (\$5 million) and **Martin Demichelis** from Bayern Munich (\$5 million). **Martin Caceres** was also signed by Sevilla from Barca for \$4 million. Atletico Madrid lost **Tomas Ujfalus** to Galatasaray.

Elsewhere, **Manuel Neuer** left Schalke from Bayern Munich on an undisclosed fee, **Grafite** left Wolfsburg for Al Ahli in Dubai and **Nuno Gomes** has joined Braga from Benfica (both undisclosed).

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FRIDAY KNIGHT LIGHTS

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

VS

HEIDELBERG UNITED

FRIDAY 8TH JULY, 2011
KICK OFF 8:15PM



BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

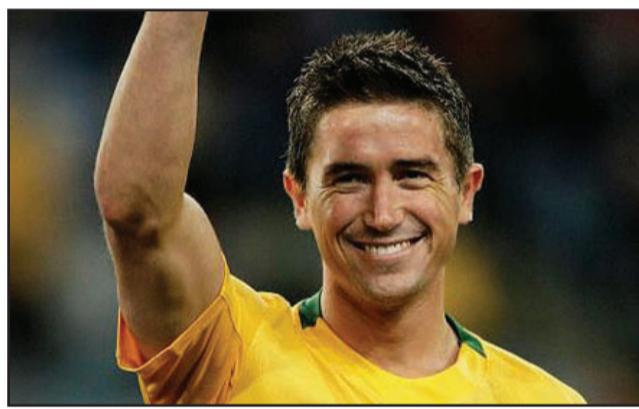


State League Division One referees won't need to push players to wear adequately-sized shinpads anymore, as most will be out getting larger ones this week with the news that Kevin Muscat has signed for Sunshine Coast Cross for the rest of this season.

For lovers of comedy, it was a sad week as Jesse Fink posted his last ever Half-Time Orange blog over at The World Game website. His last effort had its moments, but was not a patch on the book review he did of Tony Wilson's Australia United on the Das Libero website in which he spent more time writing about his own book, setting a world record for the number of I's and my's used in a single article in the process.

The best line was "In an ideal world, Ben Buckley would be given the boot, Lowy would dig into his own sizeable pockets and donate the contracts of ten international-quality marques to the league (failing that, he should retire)". Nothing as funny as those who have achieved nothing explaining how to do things properly by spending other people's money. Personally I think what the A-League needs is Frank Lowy to pay people to attend. Cost of a ticket, a few drinks and a bucket of chips, around about \$30 per head. Surely he can afford it, or step aside for someone else who can?

Craig Foster is urging Sydney FC to sign Harry Kewell. With Kewell, he believes Sydney can go on and regularly draw crowds of 30,000 or more. Clearly, for the good of the



When Harry Met Everybody: Victory, Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, Gold Coast, Fury fans all wait with baited breath for Kewell's decision.

game (in Sydney), Melbourne Victory, Newcastle Jets and Brisbane Roar should withdraw from any negotiations with Bernie Mandic in great haste. What next, WWE-style scripting of results to ensure success in the largest markets?

Still on Foster, the current Under 17's World Cup has seen him lose faith in coach Jan Versleijen. Just like with Pim Verbeek, his ability to uncover a fraud won't have him being called on to assist any police force because he's really taken his time coming to this conclusion. Maybe it's because he consults a panel of former Socceroo captains to form his opinions, but Peter Wilson is stubbornly reclusive and hard for him to get a hold of.

Interesting crowd figure from the Central Coast Mariners v Celtic game

Perth teenager scores contract with top Italian team

By Louise Brooks

Baleatta Soccer Club will be missing a star this season as Perth teenager Daniel Caccamo has landed a professional contract with Italian Serie B team Vicenza Calcio, playing in the First Team.

The 19-year old Duncraig teen is set to live an Australian soccer player's dream as he moves to Italy for his first season with the club after a brief mid-season break back at home in Perth.

Agent and director of the Australian-Italian based Genova International School of Soccer, Morris Pagniello, gave Caccamo the opportunity of a lifetime when he offered the teenager a position in Genova's Italian residential player development and placement program, enabling him to hone his skills and train with other young hopefuls.

"Like Daniel, many of our recruits have combined years of consistent training and professional coaching to develop adequately, but even then the experience of playing at European levels is hard to replicate," Pagniello said.

Pagniello worked towards Caccamo's placement in Vicenza through Genova's Italian residential player development and placement program after he was seen by GISS Scout George Athanasi. Caccamo is pleased with the opportunity, saying the development program made the transition from his Perth team to a Serie B first team smooth and efficient.

"A professional contract is something I have dreamt of from a young age, but growing up in Perth it was hard to believe it would be possible," he said.

"I think the four months I did spend in the Genova academy helped push me over the line and brought me to full fitness so that made me really comfortable with the whole process."

Soccer-crazy from five years of age, Caccamo played his junior football through various local clubs before advancing to the State League with Baleatta Soccer Club.

He further developed his resume with two seasons training in Brazil with Fluminense FC and America MG.

Caccamo is grateful for the opportunities he has been given and attributes his new contract to the help of both Pagniello and George Athanasi.

"George has been a great friend of mine for five years and has really assisted me through the mental side of the game, whilst Morris has given me a firm insight into the physical side of being a professional footballer," he said.

Caccamo plans to improve his Italian and says he has taken language lessons as an integral part of Genova's player development program.

"I think it will be beneficial for me to keep improving my Italian over the mid-season break so that when I head back overseas I can integrate well with the squad," he said.

Alongside the residential player place-



Daniel Caccamo at Vicenza's home stadium with contract in hand.

ment program, Pagniello has established soccer academies in Melbourne and Canada, with affiliated campuses in Mexico and New Zealand.

Although Caccamo spent just four months at GISS, it usually takes between six and 18 months for most of the boys to gain their experience in the residential program and step up to the European benchmark before trials become a possibility.

"The player development program acts as a finishing school for our Australian Canadian and Asian players and gives them the chance to play in practice matches against top-ranked Italian youth teams from Serie D right up to Serie A," Pagniello said.

He said the program offers moral support to the boys, guiding them in adapting to an entirely new culture and lifestyle.

Caccamo will return to Italy in July to take part in his first major pre-season with Vicenza Calcio.

KATSA'S KORNER

With George Katsamboukas

The Scorer got a much unexpected call last week, from somewhere that he thought that he would not be required.

Chris Taylor who was appointed as Gaffer of Dandenong Thunder after Stuart Munro took the Assistant Coaching gig at Perth Glory, retiring hurt after only one match in charge of the Red and Black's

His first match as Coach was a baptism of fire with the Opa Opa Boys copping six from the Blue and Whites from Northcote City.

Steve Gray will take over for the rest of the season in a player-coach capacity. From what I have gathered, Taylor pulled the pin because he could not see daylight with the current squad, which has been somewhat depleted due to injuries and player movements.

Staying with the VPL, Bentleigh Greens have offered John Anastasiadis extended job security after consolidating his position as Head Coach for season 2012 – it's a move rarely seen these days as these re appointments are usually done at season's end.

His ability to turn things around at Kingston Heath since he took over from Andy O'Dell have certainly done his cause no harm

The half way mark of the State

and Provisional Leagues has been reached and some clubs have set themselves up for a huge Happy End come season's end. However, remember the Fat Lady will only sing after Round 22 so there is still plenty of football to be played, and with 33 points up for grabs, nothing is certain till it's all over.

Same applies with club's in the Westgate Bridge Zone, where there are games to be played, there is still hope.

Australia has been hit with Kewell-mania, as many of the A-League Clubs are busily trying to secure his signature.

The surprise packet though is Brisbane Roar who have been given the go ahead from FFA El Supremo, Ben Buckley to also go after him.

Seems that Ben believes that having Harry from Politix fame on the Roar's books will increase the resale value of this ownerless outfit.

I see a very sad end with whoever signs Kewell, as it will cost them a Monza, and the novelty of Kewell playing in Australia will soon wear off, and with it, so will the crowds.

On to the World Scene we go where Les Murray pulled the biggest U-turn in history during the

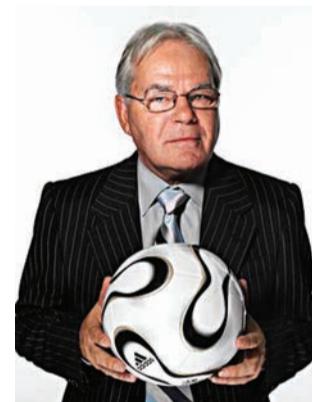
week, where he stated that what he said about Lucas Neil's alleged mutiny prior to the Socceroos World Cup Game against Germany last year was unfounded!

Les, a seasoned journo, let me give you some advice.

Never let the truth get in the way of a good story, and if your sources are wrong, pretend that they are right.

Until Next Week

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him



Unfortunately Lazlo drops the ball on this occasion....

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Oscar Crino

BLAST
FROM
THE PAST

With Roy Hay

Few players who have donned the green and gold for Australia had as much pure skill as Oscar Crino. He was born in Buenos Aires on 9 August 1962, playing there as a junior for San Lorenzo for a year before he came to Australia with his parents in 1972. He started at Footscray JUST coached by Pepe Dugina, which often meant an unaccompanied train journey from Springvale and back at the age of eleven. From JUST juniors he went to Brunswick United Juventus Under-16s and had some senior games for Tony Boggi and Manny Poulakakis.

He was an Australian schoolboy international in 1979 and was selected in the first intake into the Australian Institute of Sport in 1981 and was the only one of that select group to represent Australia at national level. The AIS coach, Jim Shoulder, helped the youngster build up his physique so he could stand the rigours of the game and exploit his freakish skills. The national coach, Rudi Gutendorf spotted his talent and picked him for the Australian Youth team which toured Israel in 1981. He also toured New Caledonia in July with the youth team.

Then on 30 August 1981, the nineteen-year-old was pitchforked into his international debut by Les Scheinflug. It was against Indonesia in a World Cup qualifier in Indonesia after Gutendorf resigned following the Socceroos defeat by New Zealand. In September he turned out against Taiwan. So he played in two senior World Cup qualifiers for Australia before he made

his club debut in the National Soccer League.

The 1981 World Youth tournament was held in Australia in October and the Young Socceroos were drawn in a group with England, Argentina and Cameroon. Crino was particularly committed as Australia started with a two-one win over Argentina, the defending world champion. A three-all draw with Cameroon and one-all against an England team including future Arsenal and England captain Tony Adams, saw the youngsters through their group. In the quarter-finals Australia lost by a goal to nil to the eventual winner West Germany.

The following year Crino left his Victorian club Juventus for a spell with Tung Sing in Hong Kong, punctuated by repeated trips back and forward over transfer problems and spells in hospital with dehydration and diet issues. He helped the club escape relegation and relearned the skills of playing the ball in the air and first time because of the hard and bouncy pitches. After a three-month holiday in Europe he returned to Australia.

Rale Rasic took over from Tommy Docherty as coach of South Melbourne in 1983 and rebuilt the side, signing Oscar Crino, Ken Murphy, Doug Brown, Bobby Russell and John Yzendoorn. The club was in turmoil and Rasic left half-way through the season despite leading the league early on and was replaced by Len McKendry, who stabilised the playing side. In a four-one thrashing of JUST, Laurie Schwab reported, 'Crino reigned

The Sublime Skills of a Midfield Masterclass



Oscar Crino leads Roy Aitken and Frank McAvennie as the Socceroos played Scotland in a World Cup qualifier at Olympic Park in 1985.
All photos: Les Shorrock, Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

supreme in midfield, calling all the shots.' Next season Hellas won the league and the premiership under McKendry with Crino establishing himself at club and national level. He won the Under-21 player of the year award in the NSL. He played 13 times for the Socceroo A and B teams

that year against Glasgow Rangers (for Australia B at home and then for the Socceroos in Glasgow), Iraklis, Beijing (2 goals), Shanghai, Canton (1 goal), Manchester City, Nottingham Forest, PSV Eindhoven, Aston Villa, Arsenal, Udinese and Tottenham Hotspur.

From then till 1989, Crino was a virtual ever present in the national team apart from 1986, when he was overseas. In 1985 the Socceroos lost in the final qualifying match against Scotland at Olympic Park after Crino ran himself and the Scottish midfield into the ground, being replaced by Zarko Odjakov for the final twenty minutes. In 1988 he helped the Australia reach the knock-out stage of the Olympic Games in Seoul going down to the Soviet Union in the quarter-finals. Unfortunately he missed the Socceroos 4-1 Gold Cup win over the country of his birth, Argentina, as a result of blood poisoning in his left calf.

Crino and his national team skipper, Charlie Yankos, had a very close relationship. The best of enemies for their club sides, they were key comrades in the national team. Though renowned for his skill, Crino could look after himself. In the Southern Division play-off in 1984 Heidelberg United led two-one when Charlie Yankos was sent off after a tackle on Crino, who Yankos said had earlier nearly broken his leg in a collision, and South scored three times in the second half. Crino had a part in the Socceroo's goal against Israel in Frank Arok's unsuccessful attempt at World Cup qualification in 1989. He dragged Pizanti out of the wall leaving the space through which Charlie Yankos blasted the equalising goal in the torrid atmosphere of the Ramat Gan stadium.

In 1985-86 Crino had a season with Anorthosis Famagusta in Cyprus and returned to Australia in 1987 signing for Footscray JUST in May. He played some stellar games in the following

seasons, 53 in all and scored ten goals, but he could not prevent JUST from being relegated at the end of the last winter season of the NSL in 1989. In November he was picked up by Preston Makedonia where he appeared in another 31 games with one goal.

Les Murray named him in his best Australian team in 2004 in a formation governed by two principles—that he had seen them play and that they were the best players available, rather than that they fitted a particular formation. His line-up was Bosnich - Ivanovic, Zelic, Tobin - Utješenovic, Okon, Crino, Lazaridis - Kewell - Abonyi, Viduka. Not a bad outfit. Crino was third in Andre Kruger's team of the century poll behind Johnny Warren and John Watkiss for the No. 8 position, with 11.6% of the vote to Warren's 11.9%.

Statistics will never accurately reflect Crino's contribution to the game, for it was how he glided through matches in total control of the ball and the tactical situation when he was on song which drew the fans. He could do breathtaking things when in the mood and always seemed to have more time to perform his feats than those scurrying around him. After he retired he coached for a while including Cairnlea in the Victorian State League Division Two North West. And finally he was the inspiration for a young aspiring player called Costa Koutopoulos, who happens to edit and produce this paper.



Oscar Crino tackles Romulo of Vasco da Gama in the World Series tournament at the MCG in 1985.



Oscar Crino for JUST and Frank Farina for Marconi in the National Soccer League.

Three Youth Socceroos in 1981, John Little, Steve Blair and Oscar Crino.

Copa America Preview

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

Group A

ARGENTINA

So much to write about yet so little coming from them on the pitch.

The host nation under Sergio Batista continue its inconsistent ways with somewhat lacklustre results. For a football *connoisseur*, just why and what could be the most logic answer to a very media-inflated question regarding Lionel Messi not performing as he usually does at club-level with the national side?

The answer may very well be at the end of the tournament, regardless if they reach the final or not. Expectations are at the very top to lift the trophy for the first time since 1993 and at home soil to add to their advantage.

From the opening match in La Plata against Bolivia on Saturday, a lot of eyes were focused on the little man from Rosario.

Little Lionel to many older and experienced observers, fails to live up to expectation and convinces little with the *Albiceleste* Jersey.

Younger generations of fans adore his football as much as all the marketing brands who exploit his talents and image while the media also point the finger at coach Batista for not stepping up. What is worrying is their poor level of football.

Constantly trialling squad formations has also not guaranteed any stability nor continuity.

His success at under-20 level alongside a few of his players like goalkeeper Sergio Romero and left-wing Angel di Maria for example does not guarantee success at senior level.

Argentina do however possess an array of talent to choose from. If possible, three or four national teams could be selected though its heyday may well belong in the past decade.

There are still players in the squad, the likes of Javier Zanetti, Esteban Cambiasso, Nicolas Burdisso and Gabriel Milito who look to be pushing themselves beyond the Copa into the 2014 Brazil World Cup qualifying campaign needing to step aside and call it a day.

Up front, the firepower is intact. Inform Napoli frontrunner Ezequiel Lavezzi has tenacity and optimism to provide whilst popular local favourite Carlos Tevez will need to settle down after his initial feud with the coach and take the team on his shoulders if Messi solely sticks to his individualism.

Tipped to win, Argentina may very well bounce back from their lacklustre result in the opening match and begin to pick up three points for the sudden-death stages.

The other possibility is flopping altogether as Colombia may provide a gallant and inspirational threat to their home title aspirations.

BOLIVIA

Experienced goalkeeper Carlos Arias kept his national side at bay in La Plata on Saturday.

Alongside solid defender Ronald Raldes, the two are formidable to the team's backline structure.

The Bolivians have not won a match since 1995 at the Copa when known as a more competitive squad with a generation of gifted players.

Inspiration may serve vital as the current crop can step up and lead the charge thus causing upsets along the way.

The draw in the opening match is definitely a positive change to their outlook, a more professional approach playing each opponent equally.

Local Bolivian media reports praised the result after it took 76 minutes for Argentina and Sergio Aguero to deny three points.

Their key is finishing on the counter-attack.

COLOMBIA

Yesterday the Colombians notched their first three

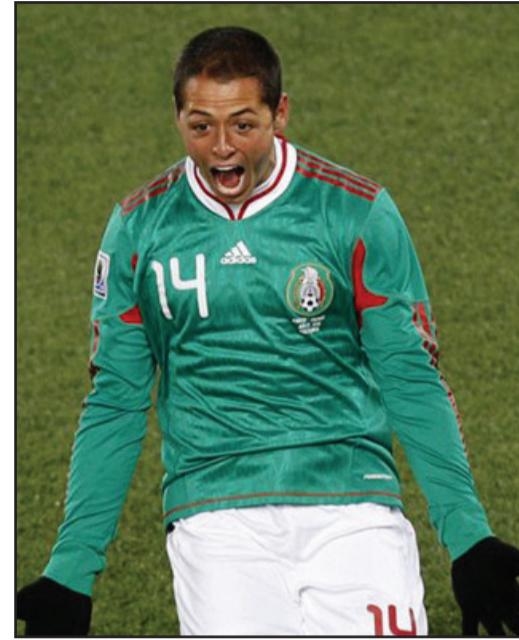
Big Guns Set To Fire At Copa America



Argentina's Messi



Brazil's Neymar



Mexico's Javier Hernandez

points narrowly getting past Costa Rica by the narrowest of margins during added time in the first half.

Those unaware of football in the vibrant, colourful Andean and Caribbean nation are most certainly aware of Radamel Falcao at least.

The Porte and Europa League marksman needs to translate his brilliant form this time round with his national side and accompanied by a feeding midfield to provide him chances.

Undergoing a renaissance of sorts, coach Hernan Dario Gomez has returned to his native troubled country to provide much-needed direction at the helm.

The backdrop looks positive though at a cost. Formidable and France-bound goalkeeper David Ospina injured his head during a mid-week friendly with Senegal in preparation for yesterday's debut.

Martinez chosen as replacement between the posts showed that Colombia continues to produce noteworthy custodians.. Freddy Guarin and Dayron Moreno on the other hand are the playmakers that with luck and support can spark what has been gap of at least ten years with a fine list of players with little success to show for in national colours.

Experienced captain in AC Milan defender Mario Yepes, Udinese's Camilo Zúñiga and Luis Amaranto Perea of Atletico Madrid are trustworthy backbone stoppers.

Youngsters are blossoming from the domestic league and need opportunities. Gomez is fully aware and for this very reason is highly regarded and respected for laying on solid foundations for the future.

Colombian football looks to be heading into the right direction.

COSTA RICA

The Central American invitees may be questioned for their participation. Unfazed

however, the "Ticos" are out to prove otherwise much like their last outing in the 2005 Copa America hosted in Peru that they are a side capable of causing upsets and playing some fine football.

Yesterday, their loss to Colombia was slightly bitter as the Ticos held their opposition well and could have overturned the result had they put their chances away.

The learning curve period has effectively shown progress with many in big clubs like Deportivo Saprissa or abroad as we can locally prove the case with three in our A-League this past domestic season.

A starting formation with Moreira in goals, Acosta, Calvo, Salvatierra and Duarte at the back, there is a new line of defenders with enough matches under their belt to claim a Copa America and a prospective World Cup campaign to look ahead.

Creativity will lie with the hard work by Leal, Guzmán and Madrigal as Mora, Brenes and Campbell allocated to inject football and entertainment up front.

An invitation is a promise to present a style of football, to say thanks to the CONMEBOL region. By attending a good display with manners and appearance, the Costa Ricans will surely continue to show just that with or without qualification to the next round.

Experience will hold as the key element from three players that will need spur the team on when falling behind. The Copa will serve as a true test of character and unity..



Group B BRAZIL

Brazil is Brazil and wherever a football can be kicked, they can appropriately tag themselves as the most respected re-inventors of the game.

This time round, the "verde-amarela" are in the process of re-inventing themselves to recover old glories yet with a new form of identity.

In saying this, identity takes time to nurture and the problem may well lie in the enormous pressure from the football world Brazil can proudly boast. It is cultural to talk about the game and criticise the coach - a sign that the job is always in hot demand.

Now it is "Mano" Menezes' turn to gear starlets Neymar, Paulo Henrique Ganso who are fresh from their Copa Libertadores victory with Santos last week alongside Elano in midfield.

Julio Cesar has experience in goals behind Lucio who can be ruthless tackling and in the air. Brazil is favourite along with the hosts and the fierce traditional rivalry in the continent means their title needs to be defended as long they do what Brazilians know best to do.

Surprise, entertain and play the ball comfortably and exquisitely on the ground.



ECUADOR

Over a decade ago, some daring Argentinean development coaches headed out to the inland areas of the country, in one of the most humid regions in the Americas to scout and recruit most importantly, developing and potential breeds of Ecuadorean football players.

This next line is in full swing and the most notable name is Antonio Valencia. Followed up is Walter Ayovi and several others who possess a height of at least 6 feet tall with an athleticism to match. Edinson Mendez and Jairo Campos are also players to watch.

Their acclimatisation is important as Ecuador looks to revamp a mix of youth talent and experienced players who have the privilege of playing in top European sides or in the big clubs in Mexico and Argentina.

Gone are the days of their midfield maestro Alex Aguinaga where Ecuador possessed an old-fashioned playmaker and Ulises de la Cruz on the flanks. After failing to reach South Africa last year, the side looks to head with a new direction as the Copa America serves right

for all their string of friendly matches played mainly in the United States. Their key is also in the youth ranks, testing and trying to blossom opportunities at senior level. A possible second round berth if they get past Venezuela and get a wishful draw to Brazil or Paraguay.



PARAGUAY

One of two teams admitted by current World Cup holders Spain as the toughest opponent at last year's tournament, coach Gerardo Martino continues to tally matches under his tenure with both a string of players growing in confidence and another with a year or two left in their international careers.

Lucas Barrios will be in Paraguay colours in his second tournament.

The Argentine-born and Borussia Dortmund star is very well respected as his time in Colo-Colo made him will be hungry to bag goals and more goals with it's simple and direct, route one football.

The Paraguayans take no prisoners. Solid hands in Justo Villar and Claudio Morel Rodriguez provides enough leadership and wisdom that they ever hope for. The World Cup was successful on their coach without the need of playboy Larissa Riquelme.

If there is a team to watch, it is the "guaranies". Indeed, the Paraguayans are a close-knit team and pull together nicely when the going gets tough. A darkhorse for punters, if not the true underdog in the tournament.



VENEZUELA
A true revolution has taken place in the rather less cultivated football nation in

terms of tradition.

Away from Hugo Chavel, oil, beauty pageants and baseball, Venezuelans now talk about their club sides, the previous of the Copa held there successfully and who to beat next.

They have troubled Brazil. Beaten Uruguay, drawn with Chile, Colombia and Paraguay. Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador have also been on the wrong end so there any easybates.

In goals, things are safe with the hands of Renny Vega and the experience up front of Giancarlo Maldonado will be important.

Juan Arango is a prolific forward who will be missing from injury so the chance is up for the "Vinotinto" Nicolas Fedor can take the responsibilities with playmaker Jesus Meza. At the back, veteran Jose Manuel Rey leads at the back some tired legs nevertheless experience to lead by example.

Coach Cesar Farias is confident this Copa America can mark a new continuation in the rise and revolution for Venezuelan football for the next three to five years..



Group C CHILE

Since change from the previous Copa America in Venezuela, it has

taken four years with two neighbouring coaches from Argentina to inspire the passionate and attacking flair of the Chileans back into the map of world football.

Now Matias Fernandez is a key midfield reference in creativity. As alternative, Jorge Valdivia can provide the job as the Colo-Colo club side of 2006 that finished runners-up in that year's Copa Nissan Sudamericana boasts of several members in "La Roja".

Claudio Borghi was the coach and insists his football continues the path of his predecessor Marcelo Bielsa with three up front. This is where Barcelona-bound Alexis Sanchez comes to the fore with his dazzling runs and dancing, feigning tricky moves.

Balls are preferred along the ground so aerial attacks pose a threat to their short-statured eleven. Goalkeeper Claudio Bravo and central defender Waldo Ponce and Bayer Leverkusen's Arturo Vidal do however provide height and prowess to withstand high balls and bring it back onto their teammates' feet. Another key is Gary Medel, the Sevilla holding midfielder has enough pitbull-like grit as fondly nicknamed to accompany Atalanta's Carlos Carmona who distributes the ball quite well. Mauricio Isla on the right can provide width and knows too well how he can combine with club teammate Alexis Sanchez.

Chile will need to top the group to avoid a date with Brazil or Argentina so to endure battles with either Colombia or Paraguay to keep advancing and fulfill the hopes of thousands in travelling Chilean supporters who have crossed the border to vocally support and witness history in the making.

A Copa triumph will seal a deadlock of runner-up medals and a strong start to coach Claudio Borghi ahead of the Brazilian run to the World Cup in three years' time.



MEXICO

Little has been revealed behind the eight suspended players for unacceptable late night

behaviour prior to the training camp in Mexico as preparation for the tournament. Remember this side competing in the Copa America will boast mainly of local domestic players.

Therefore a common misconception could be that this Mexican second string side is in Argentina for a ride, think again. The Mexicans are in to compete and not just participate.

They have nothing to lose, absolutely nothing. At the very least, they could stutter Chile's start to their campaign tomorrow and also surprise Uruguay or Peru.

Remember the Mexican league is very strong in the region and many players in other national teams ply their trade with some of the big clubs. As invitee, Mexico gains with having more match practice after its first squad came off

from snatching the Gold Cup in the United States last with that beauty from Giovani dos Santos.

A downturn is the cold weather in the Argentina inland as the southern hemisphere winter can be a stark contrast to the current Mexican sun shining this month of July. The players are professional and need to adapt to the conditions ahead.

All to play for then, arriba El Tri!



PERU

Ridden with injuries, coach Sergio Markarian can still count on Santiago Acasiete as a reference in defence. His presence has been a consistent factor for the country's revival from their notorious and infamous nights of debauchery off-field that has plagued the national side.

Discipline has now brought form to a side with its hopes in the past decade left by the wayside. The qualities of the Uruguayan-born tactician is confidence.

With a backline three in defence, it is clear that Peru wants to exploit their midfield abilities with the ball and hold possession.

A very straight forward approach as Peru despite going in without talisman Claudio Pizarro nor Jefferson Farfan, they still have Juan Manuel Vargas who goes up the left flank to provide Paolo Guerrero for the scoring duties.

Not a side to underestimate and with a win over Mexico, Uruguay or fierce arch-rivals Chile, can book them as an outsider to qualify into the next round as one of the best third-placed teams.



URUGUAY
At their last press conference yesterday before the first group tie against Peru, the

Uruguayans under Oscar Washington Tabarez are heading into the tournament as a possible semi-finalist.

There are times when the side leaves its football for a more attacking and pressing approach. Fernando Muslera has had an impressive season with Lazaro and gets the usual nod in goals,

It is Diego Lugano who commands the first eleven alongside an ambitious Mauricio Victorino in the backline followed by Sevilla's Martin Cáceres. The midfield is somewhat mobile with a string of tough legs to withstand the hard duties and provide ignition for three forwards any national team would love to have: Diego Forlán, Luis Suárez and Edinson Cavani.

Perhaps these last three high-profile names don't need mentioning with their instant recognition on the pitch though if the "Charruas" are to pose a serious threat to the title in their neighbouring territory, it lies on their shoulders. Bear in mind, motivation is what Uruguay have in loads.



Mike Salter

There were surprises aplenty in the NSW Premier League this weekend, starting on Saturday evening when the high-flying Sutherland Sharks were defeated 1-0 by bottom club Parramatta FC.

Sydney Olympic and Sydney United also dropped points in Round 15, the former losing 2-1 at home to Manly United and the latter held to a 0-0 draw against their bitter rivals Bonnyrigg, the match as usual taking place behind closed doors. Blacktown City were the only team in the top five to register a win, taking the points away from Lambert Park with a 3-2 win over APIA. Details of that one can be found below.

Marconi did their chances of a top-five finish little good by conceding two late goals to go down 2-1 to Rockdale, while Bankstown City picked up a morale-boosting three points with a fluctuating 4-3 win over the South Coast Wolves.

APIA-Leichhardt 2-3 Blacktown City

In an archetypal "Game of Two Halves", APIA-Leichhardt's spirited second half performance didn't quite make up for their abysmal showing in the first period, as Blacktown emerged deserving winners at Lambert Park.

On two minutes, Blacktown's veteran frontman Luke Roodenburg put in a range-finder from thirty yards, not troubling Jose Bello Amigo. But six minutes later Roodenburg played a more significant role as Blacktown scored a simple goal; with the APIA defence ball-watching, a flick-header from the big striker set Mitchell Duke free on the right, and the younger Blacktown man finished neatly through the legs of the advancing Bello Amigo.

The hosts briefly came to life. Nick Rizzo took advantage of some good lead-up work from David D'Apuzzo to fire in a right-footed shot on 14

Leaders Go Under In Surprise Round



Mathew Brennan (Blacktown City) slides in on Adam D'Apuzzo (APIA Leichhardt).

Photo: NICK GUOTH

minutes, which Symon Jaeger saved with some difficulty. At the other end, dreadful confusion in the APIA defence under pressure from Ray Miller allowed Roodenburg another shot at goal, which was fortuitously blocked.

On 25 minutes Blacktown doubled their advantage out of nowhere. Clever work from Miller in midfield was followed by a neat pass to Milorad Simonovic, who let fly with his right foot from 25 yards. Bello Amigo, who saw the shot late, could only watch as the ball sailed into the top right-hand corner of his goal.

These two combined again for a third goal only a few minutes later. Roodenburg did well to hold on to the ball by the right-hand by-line and steered the ball back to Miller in the centre. A deft reverse pass to Simonovic on the left, and the Blacktown stalwart this time had space to measure an angled right-footed shot which gave Bello Amigo no chance. The game was threatening to turn into a rout.

It might have been four on 37 minutes when Miller's scything run through the midfield ended with a layoff to Duke who finished neatly, but the linesman's flag was raised. Simonovic and Roodenburg too had chances as the half drew to a close, with APIA looking a rabbble.

APIA favourite Robbie Younis replaced young striker Wandi Jajaw at half-time, and the club hero's impact was felt immediately, with a left-footed free kick forcing Jaeger into an awkward save. A few minutes later the substitute won a race with Patrick Gatt for the ball in the box, and sent a lunging shot just over the bar.

On 55 minutes Younis got himself onto the scoresheet. Connecting with a long ball from deep on the left, he muscled his way past two defenders, rounded Jaeger without ado and tapped the ball home. Just before the hour it was Younis again causing havoc, turning sharply in the box and flashing a ball across goal, which just failed to find an APIA boot. Soon afterwards Mark Byrnes crossed from the APIA right; inevitably, it was Younis who got a head to it, heading just wide of the far post.

The initiative had completely reversed.

Matthew Pressello nearly headed past his own keeper under pressure from the ubiquitous Younis on 64 minutes, and Blacktown's attacking forays now lacked any real impetus. Sure enough, APIA moved within a goal of their opponents on 67 minutes; yet again, Younis was first to a ball by the Blacktown by-line, and this time he looped it back over Jaeger and into the six-yard area. There was Rizzo, to nod the ball into an empty net.

The equaliser nearly came on 71 min-

utes when David D'Apuzzo's cross from the left was glanced just wide of goal by the head of Chris James. Blacktown finally managed a shot of their own at the other end soon after, Miller sliding the ball through for Roodenburg to push a cross-shot the wrong side of the far post. An enterprising run and left-footed shot from Travis Major just afterwards was enough to give Blacktown some fresh self-belief.

Bruno Pivato came on for Major on

80 minutes and fashioned a chance for himself immediately, breaking clear on the right before firing over the crossbar. It became evident that APIA's momentum was waning, and indeed the only chance of note for the remainder of the game was a blast into the side netting by another Blacktown substitute, Adam Jenner. A vital three points for the visitors in their quest for a finals place.

NSW Results

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 15: FIRST GRADE: Parramatta Eagles 1 (Daniel Fogarty 49m) Sutherland Sharks 0, Sydney Olympic 1 (Robert Myleski 62m) Manly United FC 2 (Robert Cattanach 24m Matthew Sim 33m), Bankstown City 4 (Blaz Dejanovic 3m) Fredrick Graham 52m C Bedzo 57m S Mitchell 78m) South Coast Wolves 3 (Saso Petrovski 20m Mark Picciolini 28/72m), Marconi Stallions 1 (Nahuel Arriarte 26m) Rockdale City Suns 2 (Joshua Lawson 84m Dominic Hudap 86m), APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Robert Younis 53m Nicola Rizzo 65m) Blacktown City FC 3 (Mitchell Duke 8m Milorad Simonovic 25/30m), Sydney United 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0.

GRADE 20: Parramatta Eagles 0 Sutherland Sharks 1, Sydney Olympic 1 Manly United FC 0, Bankstown City 0 South Coast Wolves 5, Marconi Stallions 0 Rockdale City Suns 2, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 Blacktown City FC 0, Sydney United 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1.

GRADE 18: Parramatta Eagles 5 Sutherland Sharks 1, Sydney Olympic 0 Manly United FC 1, Bankstown City 1 South Coast Wolves 0, Marconi Stallions 0 Rockdale City Suns 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 Blacktown City FC 2.

Next Round

Bonnyrigg WE vs Marconi Stallions
Bonnyrigg Sports Club 7:00 PM Sat 16/Jul

Sutherland Sharks vs APIA Leichhardt
Seymour Shaw Park 7:00 PM Sat 16/Jul

Sydney Olympic vs Parramatta FC
Belmore Sports Gmd 3:00 PM Sun 17/Jul

Rockdale City Suns vs Manly United FC
Ildinden Sports Centre 3:00 PM Sun 17/Jul

South Coast Wolves vs Sydney United
John Crehan Park 3:00 PM Sun 17/Jul

Blacktown City FC vs Bankstown City
Lily Homes 3:00 PM Sun 17/Jul

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	15	10	3	2	27	15	12	32
2 Sydney United	14	7	2	6	24	14	10	20
3 Sutherland Sharks	15	7	4	4	21	18	3	25
4 Bonnyrigg WE	15	6	3	6	21	15	6	24
5 Blacktown City FC	15	7	6	2	20	15	5	23
6 Manly United FC	14	5	4	6	23	27	-4	20
7 Marconi Stallions	15	5	6	4	18	15	3	19
8 Bankstown City	15	5	7	3	21	25	-4	18
9 Rockdale City	14	5	7	3	14	19	-5	17
10 APIA Leichhardt	14	3	7	5	18	25	-7	13
11 South Coast	14	4	9	2	18	27	-9	13
12 Parramatta FC	14	3	9	3	13	23	-10	11

Queensland Results

Bundaberg Spirit 2 (Davis 30, Causier 71) v Qld Academy Sport 5 (Ronto 5, 62, Yeboah 8, 57, McLean 15)

Capricorn Cougars 0 v FNQ Bulls 6 (Bird 10, 72, Cater 60, 75, Rusch 63, 93)

NQ Razorbacks 3 (Crowley 45, 87 Mayberry 90 pen) v Brisbane Strikers 3 (Burke 11, Thurtell 63, Mottin 88)

Gold Coast Stars 0 v Sunshine Coast Fire 4 (Musson 16, 66 Holmes 36, 76)

Youth

Gympie Fire 0 v Brisbane Strikers 2
Bundaberg Spirit 0 Qld Academy Sport 4
Southern Cross 5 v Sunshine Coast Zone 2
Logan Strikers 1 v Gold Coast Zone 1
Gold Coast Stars 2 v Sunshine Coast Fire 4

Next Round

Whitsunday Miners v Gold Coast Stars
Sat 09-Jul 7:00pm

NQ Razorbacks v Bundaberg Spirit
Sat 09-Jul 8:00pm

QAS v NQ Razorbacks
Sun 10-Jul 2:00pm

Sunshine Coast FC v Capricorn Cougars
Sun 10-Jul 2:00pm

Brisbane Strikers v BYE

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Strikers	13	9	1	3	41	15	26	28
2 Sunshine Coast	12	8	3	1	39	9	30	27
3 FNQ Bulls	13	6	3	4	31	21	10	21
4 QAS	14	5	4	2	29	24	5	20
5 Whitsunday Miners	12	5	4	3	21	16	5	19
6 Gold Coast Stars	12	5	3	4	22	21	1	18
7 NQ Razorbacks	13	4	5	4	31	24	7	17
8 Bundaberg Spirit	12	1	1	10	11	45	-34	4
9 Capricorn Cougars	13	0	3	10	60	-50	-10	0

All Square in Townsville Thriller



Sunshine Fire's Tyson Holmes scores in the 4-0 win over Gold Coast. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Jarrod Ellis

FNQ Bulls continued their reversal of fortunes on Saturday evening, comfortably defeating Capricorn Cougars 6-0 at Jardine Park. A week after ending the unbeaten run of Sunshine Coast Fire and reigniting their finals hopes the Bulls were still in fine form and the Cougars were on the back foot from the outset.

Nathan Bird gave the visitors early control of the match, giving his side the lead only ten minutes in. The Cougars had conceded eleven goals in their two previous matches, the last defeat proving to be the final straw for captain Trevor Wood who quit the club, and coach Bevan Dingley would have been nervous about his side's ability to stay in the match after the early goal. However the Cougars proved to have the necessary fight to stay in the match and entered the sheds at half-time still in the game at 1-0 down.

The second half was, unfortunately for the home side, a return to form. Steven Cater, Joe Rusch and Bird combined for the Bulls to such an effect that they scored four goals in fifteen minutes, a shell-shocked Cougars outfit 5-0 down by the 75th minute. The visitors added a sixth in injury time, handing Capricorn a second successive 6-0 defeat. Also on Saturday, NQ Razorbacks welcomed Brisbane Strikers to

fence failing for the second time in the match to prevent him from heading a cross into the net.

After appearing set for defeat only minutes earlier the Razorbacks then took the lead as the clock hit 90 minutes, Lee Mayberry converting from the penalty spot after Brett Hay was brought down by Matt Christensen during a mad scramble in the Brisbane penalty area.

The drama was however yet to end and two minutes later the home crowd could only watch on agast as Chris Di Sipio played a high ball into the NQ penalty area and Ryan Mottin sent a looping header past the outstretched hands of Ryan Chellington.

In Bundaberg the Spirit hosted QAS, the home side searching for some much needed points, having previously collected only four from eleven matches. But they were up against it having lost Commins Menapi and Kallum and Korey Nix for the season in recent weeks.

QAS' strength this season, as in seasons past, has been in attack and that potency showed early on as goals from Elliott Ronto and Kwame Yeboah gave the visitors a 2-0 lead within the first eight minutes of the match.

The first half was packed with goals galore, Jacob McLean added a third for QAS before Bundaberg youngster Brendan Davis pulled one back for the home side. At 3-1 ahead QAS were in the driver's seat and they didn't let go of the wheel, adding two more goals in the second half to keep hold of a top four spot in what is fast becoming the most open race for the finals in QSL history.

Tilford Zebras in seventh heaven



Walter Pless

Second-last Olympia Warriors suffered a humiliating 7-0 loss to second-placed Tilford Zebras in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League on Friday night.

This was despite Olympia having beaten Zebras 2-1 the previous weekend to earn a semi-final place in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy State-wide knock-out competition.

Troy Kaden returned in goal for Zebras in place of Frank Mainella, who is out for the season with cracked ribs, sustained in a collision last weekend with Tony Dzelalija. Warren Wadawu skewed a shot wide for Olympia in the opening minutes, and then the visitors disappeared, allowing the Zebras free rein.

Dwayne Walsh opened the scoring in the 7th minute with a bizarre goal. Kurt Engels crossed from the left and Walsh appeared to get a touch, which deceived keeper Robert Kay, who probably expected a firm shot, and the ball trickled into the corner of the net.

Jonathon Ladic rifled home the second from the edge of the box to make it 2-0 at the break.

In the 58th minute, Sam McIntyre scored an excellent third, bamboozling the Olympia defence with some neat touches and change of direction before slotting the ball past



New Town Eagles' Alex Gordon (centre) battles against Kingborough's Wes Herweynen (left) and Marc Iseli. WALTER PLESS

Kay, who was rapidly becoming demoralised by the performance of his defenders.

McIntyre added the fourth with a marvellous shot that flew in off the right-hand post, the ball finally nestling inside the opposite post.

Ricky Self lobbed the fifth in the 70th minute from long-range after he spotted Kay off his line. Jayden Welch broke through on the left in the 74th minute and his cross-cum-shot sailed over Kay and hit the inside of the far post and nestled in the net to make it 6-0.

As if that wasn't enough, Walsh scored his second of the game and his side's seventh in the first minute of stoppage time.

The win put Zebras 8 points adrift of leaders South Hobart, who were due to play on Sunday against sixth-ranked Glenorchy Knights.

Bottom-side Beachside lost 4-1 away to third-placed Clarence United at Wentworth Park on Saturday night, to the great relief of Olympia, who can literally hear Beachside breathing down their necks.

Olympia are three points ahead of Beachside, but still in danger of relegation.

Beachside took the lead against Clarence when Pat Dunne headed a free-kick in off a post after just 9 minutes and it took Clarence until the 35th minute to equalise. It was

worth waiting for as it was a cracker of a goal, Aaron Browning hammering a great shot in off a post from the right after a superb through-ball by Korean import Yeon Sun Jo.

Three minutes after the break, another Korean import, Kyu Jun Kim, put Clarence ahead with a penalty after Seth Van Heyster had fouled Ben Hamlett.

In the 55th minute, Beachside goalkeeper Michael Soszynski completely missed his clearing kick after a ball ricocheted off defender Luke Atkin and rolled towards goal and it was 3-1 for the home-side.

Midway through the half, Lachlan Brown made it 4-1 with a terrific shot from the left that hit the underside of the bar and crossed the line before being cleared.

Soszynski redeemed himself for his error on at least three occasions before the end, pulling off some fine saves.

In the Saturday afternoon game, fourth-placed New Town Eagles raced to a 2-0 lead at the interval against the visiting fifth-ranked Kingborough Lions United at Clare Street before having to settle for a 3-3 draw.

It was the second game in charge for Eagles' new coach, Stephen Pitchford, and the second draw.

Josh Quan had the ball in the net in the 6th minute for Eagles after an Alex Gordon pass, but it was ruled off-side.

Kingborough almost conceded an own-goal in the 14th minute when Andrew Davies tried to clear, but his keeper, David Leamey, saved the day by turning the ball against the crossbar.

Seconds later, at the other end, Ea-

Next Round

Southern Premier League
Friday 8th July 2011
Glenorchy Knights v Tilford Zebras
KGV Park 08:00 PM

Saturday 9th July 2011
Beachside FC v New Town Eagles
Sandown Park 10:30 PM

Olympia FC v Kingborough Lions
Warriors Park 07:00 PM

Sunday 10th July 2011
South Hobart FC v Clarence United
South Hobart 02:30 PM

Northern Premier League
Saturday 2nd July 2011
Ulverstone v Burnie United
Ulverstone Showgrounds 02:30 PM

Prospect Knights v Northern Rangers
Prospect Park 02:30 PM

Riverside Olympic v Somerset
Windsor Park 02:30 PM

Launceston City v Launceston United
Mitsubishi Park 02:30 PM

Devonport City v Bye

Tasmania Results

Southern Premier League
South Hobart FC 7 Glenorchy Knights 1
Tilford Zebras 7 Olympia FC 0
Clarence United 4 Beachside FC 1
New Town Eagles 3 Kingborough Lions 3

Northern Premier League
Riverside Olympic 1 Somerset 4
Prospect Knights 1 Northern Rangers 2
Launceston City 6 Launceston United 1

Northern Division

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	12	9	1	2	29	11
Devonport City	11	9	0	2	38	18
Prospect Knights	11	8	1	2	27	10
Ulverstone	10	6	2	2	26	16
Launceston City	12	4	3	5	22	15
Riverside Olympic	12	4	2	6	20	14
Burnie United	10	3	0	7	17	22
Somerset	12	3	1	8	22	32
Launceston United	12	0	0	12	16	58

Southern Division

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart FC	15	12	3	0	54	15
Tilford Zebras	15	8	4	3	43	28
Clarence United	15	6	6	3	25	28
New Town Eagles	15	6	5	4	29	26
Kingborough Lions	15	7	0	8	30	21
Glenorchy Knights	15	4	4	7	24	31
Olympia FC	15	2	3	10	23	40
Ulverstone FC	15	1	3	11	40	6

gales goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford, came to his side's rescue when he anticipated well and rushed off his line to bravely deny Davies.

Adam McKeown headed Eagles in

front in the 25th minute from Mark Page's free-kick from deep on the left, while a great drive from 20 metres from Gordon a minute before the break made it 2-0.

Kingborough came out with all

guns blazing in the second half and two quick goals by Joel Schuth before the hour mark was up made it 2-2.

When David Cooper made it 3-2

for the visitors with a penalty in the

78th minute, the home supporters were pessimistic about their side's chances, but McKeown saved a point for Eagles when he latched onto a poor back-pass by Joseph Davis and beat defenders Wes Her-

weynen and Marc Iseli to round keeper Leamey and slot home the equaliser.

In the Forestry Tasmania Northern

Premier League, Northern Rang

ers regained the lead by beating

Prospect Knights 2-1 away through

goals by Chris Hunt and Todd

Hingston. Ben Crosswell notched a

consolation goal for the third-placed

Knights.

Ulverstone lost 2-1 at home against

Burnie United, Riverside Olympic

went down 4-1 at home to Somer

set, and Launceston City trounced

bottom-side Launceston United 6-1.

Campbelltown get season back on track



Here's mud in your eye: In the heat of the moment Para Hills and Blue Eagles get down and dirty. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

The Red Devils created the better chances, with Matthew Deegan spurning a one-on-one with Reilly, who was equal to the task.

Trimboli then headed on to the cross bar for the league's lowest scoring side.

Campbelltown finally took the lead in the 72nd minute with Frisina grabbing his first of the season. Working the ball down the left-hand side, Frisina made himself available inside the area, controlled a pass and placed his shot expertly past Reilly.

As Modbury made a late push for the equaliser gaps appeared in their defence and this let in Trimboli in injury time. Through against Reilly, he clinically netted his side's third.

The hosts only had to wait two minutes for the equaliser as Beltrame received a pass and from outside of the penalty area struck an unstoppable shot past goalkeeper Paul Reilly.

scored more than once.

Best on ground for the hosts were Deegan, Toby Nelson and Nicholas Green. The Jets were led by Anthony Solagna, Todd McSorely and goal-scorer Giacomelli.

All five goals came in the second half as Western Strikers crushed Adelaide Galaxy 4-1 at Carnegie Reserve on Saturday.

The visitors took the lead shortly after the break through Jake Markham, but goal-machine Calvin Mbarga drew the team's level. Three goals in three minutes then sealed the result, with Callum Flanagan and a brace from Stephen McNeill keeping Strikers in the race for a top three position.

Best for Western Strikers were Ambesager Sium Yosief, Flanagan and Jordan Spadavecchia, with Ryan Veitch the standout for Galaxy.

Adelaide Blue Eagles recovered

from a goal and man down at half-time to defeat Para Hills 3-1 at Marden Sports Complex on Saturday.

Alex Mullen gave the Knights a second minute lead, with Tony Hatzis' red card making it an uphill battle for Blue Eagles. They hit back with a double from Kym Harris either side of a Chad Bugeja penalty.

Harris was joined by Damien Di Mella and Dean Kendrick as the top three players for Blue Eagles, while Ben Moore, Simon Catanzaro and Mullen were Para Hills best.

A first half blitz from Raiders gave them a 3-0 win against Croydon at Polonia Park on Saturday.

Nik Kuzman was on target with a brace and Ben Tarabar made sure of the points minutes before half-time as Raiders move above the Kings and away from the relega-

This Week - Federation Cup

Croydon vs Metro Stars

2:30 PM Sat 9/Jul Polonia Park

Salisbury United vs Adelaide Blue Eagles

2:30 PM Sat 9/Jul Steve Jarvis Park

Western Strikers vs White City

2:30 PM Sat 9/Jul Carnegie Reserve

Adelaide Galaxy vs Raiders

2:30 PM Sat 9/Jul Con Makris Park

tion zone.

Best on ground for Croydon was Ermias Tekle, who was ably assisted by Dion Gazettas and captain Michael Papacharalambous. For the triumphant Raiders, Dan Atkins, Kuzman, Scott Weidenbach were excellent.

Adelaide City hosts MetroStars at Adelaide City Park on Monday night in the top of the table battle.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Adelaide City	12	11	1	0	38	10	28	34
2 Metro Stars	12	9	1	2	30	7	23	28
3 Adelaide BE	13	7	2	4	16	15	1	23
4 Western Strikers	13	7	1	5	21	13	8	22
5 Adelaide Galaxy	13	4	4	5	16	22	-6	16
6 Campbelltown	13	4	2	7	11	17	-6	14
7 Raiders	13	4	1	8	18	21	-3	13
8 Para Hills	13	3	3	7	10	19	-9	12
9 Croydon	13	3	3	7	10	20	-10	12
10 Modbury	13	2	2	9	12	39	-37	8



Jacob Kagi

A Rory Grant goal saw Inglewood United consolidate its spot in the WA Premier League top five with a shock 1-0 victory against Perth SC.

Grant scored the only goal of the match in the 46th minute to give Inglewood its eighth win of the season and put a major dent in Perth's hopes of winning the minor premiership. Defeat left second-placed Perth 11 points behind league leaders Balcatta - albeit with two games in hand - and needing a dramatic turnaround in the final two months of the season to make up the gap on its rivals.

But Inglewood is in fourth spot after its victory, three points clear of sixth-placed Stirling with two games in hand, and is in an excellent position to make the finals.

At the top of the ladder, Balcatta took advantage of Perth's defeat with a 4-0 thrashing of lowly Armadale.

The Cats were 3-0 up by half-time and victory was never truly in doubt against their

Inglewood shocks Perth SC

southern suburbs opponents, who remained six points clear of the relegation zone despite the loss.

Daniel Niederberger put Balcatta ahead in the seventh minute before an own goal doubled their advantage 13 minutes later.

Daniel Micevski's 44th minute goal sealed the victory before Niederberger scored his second 21 minutes from full-time to inflict further pain on Armadale.

Victory meant Balcatta has won two straight since its shock loss to Bayswater City a fortnight ago and left it in pole position to finish first after the home-and-away season.

Stirling Lions' 2-1 away loss to Bayswater was a huge blow to its finals hopes.

The Lions had won three straight but were overmatched by the in-form Bayswater, which continued its excellent run thanks to Million Butshire's 70th minute winner.

Cesar Gonzalez put City ahead just two minutes in, but Stirling responded through a Phil O'Callaghan goal in the 29th minute.

After a tense battle, Butshire scored 20 minutes from full-time and City held on to extend



Perth SC striker David Onoforo and Inglewood United defender Paul Dugdale in action at the BGC Stadium. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

its unbeaten run to four games, a streak which has moved it out of the relegation battle and into finals contention.

Western Knights consolidated its spot in the top five with a comfortable 2-0 victory against ECU Joondalup.

Stuart Montgomery put the Knights ahead from the penalty spot after 16 minutes before Ryan Shackleton wrapped up the three points for the third-

placed side in the 90th minute. Victory gave the Knights a five-point gap over sixth spot and saw them move within three points of Perth in second.

Sorrento jumped ahead of Stirling and climbed into fifth spot thanks to its 2-1 victory against Mandurah City.

Aaron Dos Santos put struggling Mandurah ahead early in the first half but Brodie Martin

levelled the game with 30 minutes remaining before Todd Harnwell, the brother of Perth Glory legend Jamie, netted the winner in the 85th minute.

Defeat saw Mandurah remain in the drop zone, six points behind safety, while Sorrento has a two-point gap over the Lions.

And Cockburn City beat the NTC 1-0 in a match which didn't count for points.

All Flags WA Results

First Team

Inglewood United 0 Sorrento 0; Perth SC 2 (Onoforo 21, Sharland 50) NTC 1 (Vulin 44); ECU Joondalup 0 Bayswater City 2 (Malandra 16p, 19p); Mandurah City 1 (Straker 20) Armadale 2 (J Robinson 7, Barlow 35); Western Knights 1 (Ferguson 53) Stirling Lions 3 (Watt 12, 49, Skorch 21).

Reserves

Inglewood United 2 Sorrento 1; Perth SC 5 NTC 5; ECU Joondalup 1 Bayswater City 3; Mandurah City 0 Armadale 3; Western Knights 2 Stirling Lions 4.

Under 18's

Inglewood United 1 Sorrento 3; Perth SC 5 NTC 3; ECU Joondalup 4 Bayswater City 3; Mandurah City 0 Armadale 2; Western Knights 2 Stirling Lions 4.

Next Round - State League Cup

Perth SC v Western Knights

BGC Stadium
1:00 PM Sat 9/JUL

Armadale SC v Sorrento FC

Alfred Skeet Reserve
2:30 PM Sun 10/JUL

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta SC	17	14	0	3	44	25	29	42
2 Perth SC	15	10	1	4	31	17	14	31
3 Western Knights	16	8	4	4	26	23	3	28
4 Inglewood United	15	8	2	5	36	24	12	26
5 Sorrento FC	15	7	4	4	22	19	3	25
6 Stirling Lions	17	7	2	8	30	30	0	23
7 Bayswater City	17	6	5	6	30	32	-2	23
8 Floreat Athena FC	16	6	4	6	28	25	3	22
9 ECU Joondalup	17	6	2	9	19	32	-13	20
10 Armadale SC	17	5	2	10	24	36	-12	17
11 Mandurah City	17	3	2	12	14	28	-14	11
12 Cockburn City	15	2	2	11	21	44	-23	8

Olympic goes top of Rock Premier League



Russ Gibbs

Canberra Olympic have moved to the top of the Rock Premier League with a 4-0 win over Tuggeranong United on a cold afternoon at Kambah 2 and in the process gained their first positive result against the Southside club this season.

Having lost to Tuggeranong in the loop Federation Cup and being held to a 2-2 draw in the reverse fixture at O'Connor earlier this season the Tuggeranong hoodoo was laid to rest in convincing fashion. With Canberra FC still in Croatia, and therefore not playing for the second week in succession, Olympic was able to take advantage and move a point clear although the champions have two games in hand.

Olympic proved far too good for United and dominated play for most of the match taking an early lead in the 12th minute when Daniel Barac, their young striker who had trials at English Championship club Watford earlier in the year, was on hand to pounce on a loose ball in the penalty area to drive a finish past Alex Connell in the Tuggeranong goal. The lead should have been doubled midway through the half when the visitors were awarded a penalty

by FIFA referee Ben Williams. However, dead-ball expert Domenic Giampaolo, who has been in deadly form in recent weeks, placed his spot-kick well over the cross bar.

It was to matter little though in the long run as Mohsen Ravanparsa scored five minutes before the break. A third goal, converted by Robbie Shroder, sealed the result in favour of Olympic and they further glossed the score board when Ravanparsa converted his seventh goal of the campaign nine minutes from the final whistle.

At Woden Park a late, late equaliser from Matt Valeri rescued a point for Belconnen United in a 2-2 draw with Woden Valley in what was a superb match. The hosts had taken the lead in the 15th minute when Lachlan Nichols converted a slick passing move and delightful cross from Ben Pagett with a textbook downward header that beat Rohan Shepherd in the Blue Devils goal. The visitors responded when referee Richard Naumovski awarded a penalty for a foul by Micah Johnson on Danny Macor and Dustin Wells slammed in his 19th goal of the season to level the scores.

After the break Woden went in front again when livewire striker Alex Oloriegbe converted low to the near post after collecting a precise through ball only minutes after having a goal chalked out for offside. It appeared that this would be the winner but from a corner deep into stoppage time Matt Valeri



Mohsen Ravanparsa grabbed a brace in Olympic's 4-0 romp over Tuggeranong and on its way to top spot in the ACT standings. Photo: NICK GUOTH

thumped an angled drive beyond the reach of Jack Pettit in the Woden goal to steal a point for Steve Forshaw's team.

Cooma Tigers mirrored Belconnen's late heroics with an injury time equaliser of their own as their visit to the Riverside Stadium to play Monaro Panthers ended in a 1-1 draw. A spectacular bicycle kick from Serdan Bircan, with virtually

the last kick of the match, gave the Tigers a share of the spoils after Mark Shields had struck for the 13th time this season just after the half-hour mark of the contest.

At Cookbundoon Canberra City striker Misko Naumovski helped himself to a hat-trick, including one from the penalty spot as City proved too strong for Goulburn Strikers win-

ning their match 8-1. As well as a treble from their leading scorer, City struck goals from Adam Dobell (2), Brad Sawyer (2) and a first at this level from Adam Johnston. The Strikers did manage to get on the score sheet in the second half but it was via City player Simon Gemmell who put through his own goal.

ACT Results

Tuggeranong United 0 Canberra Olympic 4 (Daniel Barac 12', Mohsen Ravanparsa 40', 81', Robbie Shroder 61')
Woden Valley 2 (Lachlan Nichols 15', Alex Oloriegbe 78') Belconnen United 2 (Dustin Wells 29' (pen), Matt Valeri 96')
Goulburn Strikers 1 (Simon Gemmell 77' (og)) Canberra City 8 (Adam Dobell 6', 54', Misko Naumovski 8' (pen), 26', 88', Adam Johnston 34', Brad Sawyer 87', 91')
Monaro Panthers 1 (Mark Shields 31') Cooma Tigers 1 (Serdan Bircan 90')

Next Round

Cooma SC v Belconnen United Njong Oval 3:00 PM Sat 9/JUL

Canberra FC v Canberra City Deakin Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 10/JUL

TUFC v Woden Valley Kambah 3:00 PM Sun 10/JUL

Monaro v Goulburn Strikers Riverside Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 10/JUL

Canberra Olympic v Woden Valley Hawker Football Centre 7:00 PM Tue 12/JUL

BYE v Canberra Olympic

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra Olympic	9	7	1	1	36	11	+25	22
2 Canberra FC	7	7	0	0	45	7	+38	21
3 Belconnen United	9	6	1	2	38	17	+21	19
4 Canberra City	9	5	1	3	36	13	+23	16
5 Woden Valley	8	3	2	3	28	16	+12	11
6 Cooma Tigers	9	3	1	5	19	28	-9	10
7 Monaro Panthers	9	2	2	5	21	20	+1	8
8 Tuggeranong Utd	9	2	2	6	12	24	-12	5
9 Goulburn Strikers	9	0	0	9	3	101	-98	0

LEADING SCORERS

19 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United)
13 Mark SHIELDS (Monaro Panthers)
12 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City)
11 Paul IVANIC, Victor YANES (both Canberra FC)
9 Domenic GIAMPAOLO (Canberra Olympic), Alex OLORIEGBE (Woden Valley)

THE 2011 RIVIERA HOTEL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE!

The 2011 Riviera Hotel Champions League at Saxon Sports Frankston is fast approaching. An indoor soccer tournament with a difference!

With last years tournament attracting teams from as far as the UK, as well as all over the South East Region, much hype and anticipation surrounds the teams that will contest for Champions League glory in 2011 and the \$3000 prize money!

With The Riviera Hotel, Seaford as our major sponsors once again all teams receive replica team shirts of the side they represent free of charge! The team shirts will be on display shortly, as soon as the teams qualify for the official tournament we'll be getting the shirts in the centre!

Will last years winners Arsenal return this year and attempt to defend their title?

Only time will tell!

And with just 32 spots available its sure to fill up very quickly.

There is plenty to play for with \$3000 PRIZE MONEY up for grabs, teams play for the European Cup Trophy, the Europa League Trophy and The Golden Boot Award is another much sought after honour for grabs - last year's winner won it with 62 goals! Can anyone beat that this year?

Highlights are posted weekly on our YouTube Channel, results and weekly round ups are reported in Goal! Weekly, on Facebook and on our website.

The tournament kicks off with the Team Draw Night on Wednesday 28th September.

At the Team Draw Night you will receive your team shirts, which are provided free of charge by us here at Saxon Sports.

At this event each team captain selects the team they wish to represent, the draw takes place in the order that teams sign up and registration fees are paid.

Who you gonna be? Your favorite team? The team with the best shirts? Or a tactical choice to avoid playing certain teams in the group stage?

So if you desperately desire a team (editor 'personally I would be going Chelsea'), get in early!!

The format is simple, the 32 teams that are playing in the real European Champions League will be represented at Saxon Sports from Wednesday October 5th to Wednesday December 21st.

8 groups of 4 play each other both 'home and away' with the top 2 from each group progressing to the Champions League final 16 and the 3rd & 4th placed teams in each group enter the Europa League final 16.

After the group stage, each game is played over 2 legs with the away goals rule deciding games that are tied on aggregate at full time in the second leg - just like the real thing!

So which team are you going to represent?

Call Saxon Sports on 9783 6066 to register your team today! Or visit www.saxonsportsfrankston.com for more info.

Here's the full Riviera Hotel 2011 Champions League Program of Events

Draw Night – Wednesday 28th September

Group stage Game 1 – Wednesday 5th October

Group stage Game 2 – Wednesday 12th October

Group stage Game 3 – Wednesday 19th October

Group stage Game 4 – Wednesday 26th October

Group stage Game 5 – Wednesday 2nd November

Group stage Game 6 – Wednesday 9th November

Final 16 First Leg – Wednesday 16th November

Final 16 Second Leg – Wednesday 23rd November

Quarter Finals First Leg – Wednesday 30th November

Quarter Finals Second Leg – Wednesday 7th December

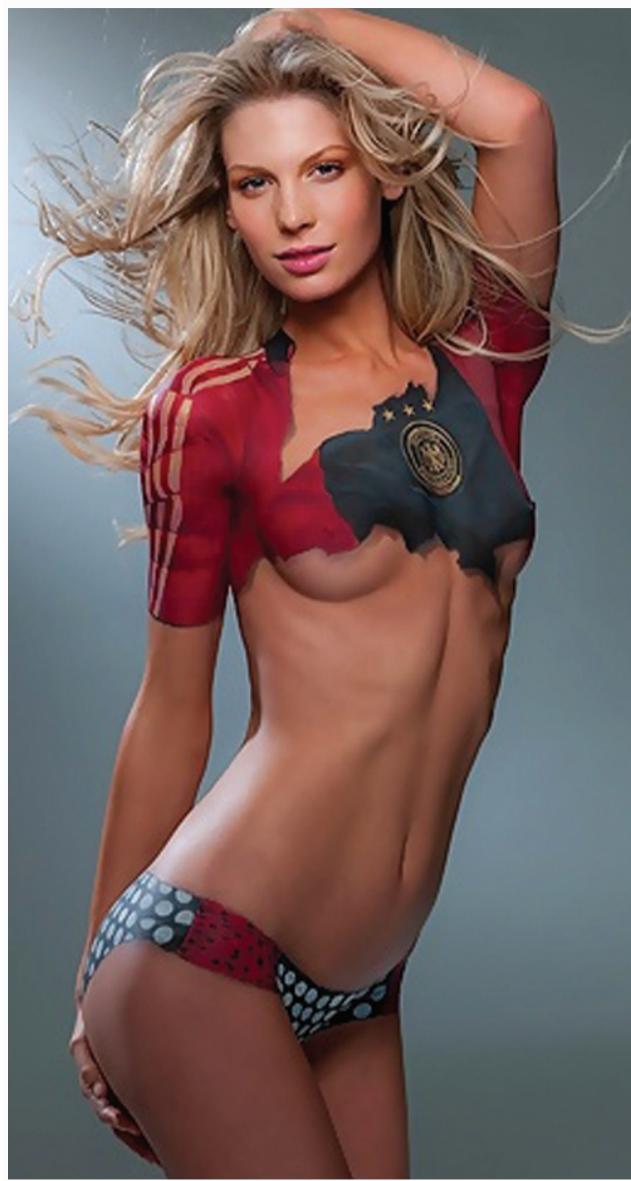
Semi Finals First Leg – Wednesday 14th December

Semi Finals Second Leg – Wednesday 21st December

Grand Final – Wednesday 21st December

You got to be in it to win it!

WAG OF THE WEEK



Sarah Brandner Age: 23

Scored with Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern)



Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



one

Monday 04th July
06:00 am Football: The Magic Of The FA Cup Leeds United - Greatest Games

Thursday 07th July
07:30 am Football: The Magic Of The FA Cup Manchester United - Greatest Goals

Friday 08th July
11:30 am 500 Greatest Goals
Football is a worldwide phenomenon. Sit back as we delve through the archives of football leagues from all over the country and see the best goals in history.

Monday 11th July
09:10 am 500 Greatest Goals

SBS TWO
Monday July 4th
09:00 PM Women's World Cup Germany : Quarter-final 1. *LIVE*.
04:15 AM Women's World Cup Germany 2011: Quarter-final 2. *LIVE*.

Sunday July 10th
10:30 AM Football
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature
12:00 PM Futbol Mundial

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 04-Jul
Copa America Group B Brazil v Venezuela 4:55am **LIVE**
Copa America Group B Paraguay v Ecuador 7:25am **LIVE**

Tuesday 5-Jul
Copa America Group C Uruguay v Peru 8:10am **LIVE**
Copa America Group C Chile v Mexico 10:40am **LIVE**

Thursday 7-Jul
Copa America Group A Argentina v Colombia 10:40am **LIVE**

Friday 8-Jul
Copa America Group A Bolivia v Costa Rica 8:10am **LIVE**

Saturday 9-Jul
Copa America Group B Uruguay v Chile 8:10am **LIVE**
Copa America Group B Peru v Mexico 10:40am **LIVE**
J-League Round 3 Kashima Rayos v Vengata Sendai 8:00pm **LIVE**

Sunday 10-Jul
Copa America Group C Brazil v Paraguay 4:55am **LIVE**
Copa America Group C Venezuela v Ecuador 7:25am **LIVE**

Monday 11-Jul
Copa America Group A Colombia v Bolivia 4:55am **LIVE**

Tuesday 12-Jul
Copa America Group A Argentina v Costa Rica 10:40am **LIVE**

31tvnow!

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Wireless FC

Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discuss local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.

The Four Diegos
Monday to Thursday 11pm
SEN

A FACE IN THE CROWD



Win a Goal! Weekly subscription by spotting yourself in the crowd!

The Melbourne Knights defeated Oakleigh Cannons 1-0 on Friday night and GW photographer Peter Kakalias was on hand to capture fans and players celebrate the triumph.

If that's you in circled in the picture above, send us a message on our Facebook page or drop us an email at news@goalweekly.com so you can win your prize - it's that easy!

You've got until noon this Friday to claim your prize. Good luck!



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Mariners late show stuns Celtic

By Ben O'Neill

Troy Hearfield's scintillating 86th minute strike was enough for the Central Coast Mariners to stun Scottish giants Glasgow Celtic FC 1-nil in Saturday's international friendly at Sydney's ANZ stadium.

On debut for his new club, Hearfield's heroics etched him into Central Coast folklore, as the Mariners claimed arguably the biggest scalp in their history.

Although it was a pre-season friendly, and both sides were coming into the match lacking match fitness, Graham Arnold was still extremely pleased with the efforts of his side.

"I thought our defensive structure was again good tonight, although we were rusty in our execution in the final third," said Arnold.

"Overall I thought we played well. It's the first time the boys have played in this stadium, and to play a powerhouse side like Celtic was fantastic for them."

"They don't have their history for no reason. They're a top side, with some outstanding players. It's their first game, so we played them at the best time in their tour."

"It was a great chance to see Australian players test themselves against that type of opposition," said Arnold.

Facing a strong Celtic side bolstered by the inclusions of skipper Scott Brown, Beram Kayal, and Shaun Maloney among others – a stern test awaited the Mariners in this, their historic first international friendly.

Graham Arnold went for a combination of the exuberance of youth, and the nous of experienced veterans to combat the Scottish threat. Qantas Young Socceroo FIFA World Cup hopefuls Bernie Ibini-Isei, Trent Sainsbury and Sam Gallagher were all named in Arnold's match day squad.

Former Celtic player and New

Zealand International Michael McGlinchey was awarded the skipper's armband. A just reward for one of the Mariners most consistent performers last season.

It was a composed start to the match for the Mariners who weren't overawed by a meeting with one of the giants of Scottish football. Patrick Zwaanswijk and Rostyn Griffiths calmly worked together to repel the early raids, and ensured that in transition the Mariners would play the ball out from the back.

Chances were few and far between in the opening half as both sides attempted to settle into the rhythm of the game. Indeed the match was played predominantly in the middle third as the midfielders became the most influential players in the game.

Bernie Ibini-Isei gave the Celtic defence a fright with his sheer turn of speed in one of his first forays into the penalty area. It was acceleration that would have made Usain Bolt proud, but the well-drilled defenders were quick to learn their lesson, and thereafter chances were limited for the young striker.

Celtic's best chance of the half came from a surging run from Mark Wilson. His cross was whipped towards the far post, but it was too good for everyone and sailed harmlessly over the by-line.

New acquisition Adriano Pellegrino showed his class threading some subtle passes through to Daniel McBreen and Ibini-Isei. But it was too be a familiar combination that would almost unlock the resolute Celtic defence.

In the twilight of the half Josh Rose surged forward and interchanged a lovely combination of passes with Oliver Bozanic. Even Celtic coach Neil Lennon was full of praise for the left-sided defender, believing his constant runs posed a threat to his side.

Both coaches wrung the changes in the opening minutes of the second half with the highly rated Eng-



You're knicked! Mariners' Patrick Zwaanswijk keeps Celtic's Daryl Murphy at bay as John Hutchinson arrives to lend a helping hand. Photo: NICK GUOTH

lishman Gary Hooper being called into action. The talented attacker showed some deft touches as the visitors from Glasgow upped the tempo in a valiant effort to take the match to the Mariners.

Substitute Anthony Stokes almost gave Celtic the ultimate reward for this positive approach on the hour mark. A precision pass from midfield released Stokes, before Mariners custodian Justin Pasfield sensed the danger and rushed off his line to narrow the angle. Had Stokes shot a fraction of a second earlier, Celtic would have taken a decisive 1-nil lead.

As is so often the case in football after being under the pump, the Mariners immediately counter-attacked on the next play. Rose again surged forward and provided a dipping cross through to an unmarked Pellegrino. The latter couldn't take

advantage of the delivery, spurning his attempted header wide.

The match sank into a carbon copy of the first half as both midfielders tried to get over the top of their opponents. Scott Brown was constantly frustrating the Mariners, and veteran John Hutchinson and McGlinchey tried valiantly to link up with their forwards.

Just as the match appeared headed for a scoreless draw Celtic manufactured a chance from nothing. It was left to one of the youngest players in Mariners colours to defuse the situation. Trent Sainsbury pulled off a tremendous last-ditch challenge on the fleet-footed Joe Ledley. It was a tackle that even made the Celtic faithful applaud generously.

With only minutes remaining in regular time it appeared that not even the Mariners could pull off a

Houdini escape this time. Somebody forgot to tell Troy Hearfield who found himself unmarked just outside the box in the 86th minute. The midfielder struck a stinging shot that powered into the net. Aidé by a deflection from the Celtic defence, it was still an exhibition of the new recruit's undeniable talent.

There was one more heart-stopping moment in stoppage time when Celtic thought they had done enough to earn an equaliser. A plethora of yellow and navy in the box combined three times to deny the visitors, highlighted by a desperate clearance off the line by the wily Zwaanswijk.

A tough 1-nil win was a dream result for the Mariners, but Graham Arnold knows it means nothing with the season proper still months away.

One thing is for sure, the Central



Celtic line up for the first match of their 2011 Australian Tour. Photo: NICK GUOTH



Mariners' Troy Hearfield scores with a superb strike. Photo: NICK GUOTH

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Match Details

CC MARINERS



1

GLASGOW CELTIC



0

Central Coast Mariners - 1
(Hearfield 86')

Glasgow Celtic FC - 0

Central Coast Mariners: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Josh Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson, 8. Rostyn Griffiths, 9. Bernie Ibini-Isei, 10. Adriano Pellegrino, 11. Oliver Bozanic, 14. Michael McGlinchey (C).

Substitutes:

1. Nikodin Matic (Gk), 5. Brad Porter, 12. Troy Hearfield, 15. Brad McDonald, 16. Trent Sainsbury, 17. Michael Baird, 21. Sam Gallagher.

Yellow Cards: None
Red Cards: None

Glasgow Celtic FC: 24. Lukasz Zaluska (Gk), 2. Adam Matthews, 8. Scott Brown (C), 12. Mark Wilson, 13. Shaun Maloney, 17. Kelvin Wilson, 22. Glenn Loovens, 27. Daryl Murphy, 31. Richie Towell, 33. Beram Kayal, 49. James Forrest.

Substitutes:

47. Dom Cervi (Gk), 10. Anthony Stokes, 15. Kris Commons, 16. Joe Ledley, 20. Paddy McCourt, 88. Gary Hooper.

Yellow Cards: None
Red Cards: None

Referee: Matthew BREEZE

Crowd: 19,482 at ANZ Stadium, Sydney

Coast Mariners proved that they thrive under the pressure of an international friendly.

goal!
weekly



Football fans make their way to the opening match between hosts and hot favourites Germany and Canada.



WORLD AT THEIR FEET

The Westfield Matildas posted one of their most impressive performances at a FIFA Women's World Cup only to be beaten by world number three Brazil, 1-nil, in their first match of Group D.

A Rosana strike on 54 minutes was the only difference between the two sides with Australia having 12 shots on goal and dominating possession against the much fancied Brazilians.

With seven World Cup debutants in the starting line-up the Westfield Matildas began the match in impressive style creating a host of chances and shutting down Brazil consistently.

Lisa De Vanna and Kyah Simon both went close in the first half and only a fortuitous Marta strike and cross saw Australia struggle to deal with the Samba girls.

Brazil found their rhythm in the second half and on 54 minutes a lapse in defensive concentration saw Rosana get on the end of a bouncing ball that Australia failed to clear and beating the offside trap and valiant efforts of Tameka Butt sailed the ball past Melissa Barbieri.

Australia had the best chances for the remainder of the match but could not capitalise on some slick passing moves and could not put the power or precision on their shots to beat Andreia in the Brazil goals.

In the last play of the match a Collette McCallum corner had Brazil scrambling.

With many bodies in the box substitute Sam Kerr hit a peach of a left foot volley which slammed into a group of players with the rebound falling just beyond the reach of Kim Carroll and Caitlin Foord and Brazil managing to launch the ball over the touchline and fulltime whistle to blow.

With the match finishing 1-nil Westfield Matildas Head Coach Tom Sermanni, while disappointed with the result, felt his players performed brilliantly.

"It was a great effort from the players and there are a lot of positives to take out of this match," said Sermanni.

"I think we achieved a lot out of the game today."

"Obviously we are disappointed in the result but I think we showed the quality and the type of football that we've tried to play which is something that impresses me greatly about this group."

"And you know we just nearly got something at the end."

"We now need to focus on our next game and look to win our games against Equatorial Guinea and Norway and then hopefully proceed from there."

Australia were set to play Equatorial Guinea overnight (Sunday July 3) before taking on Norway on July 6 (Thursday July 7, 2am AEST SBS ONE).



France began their campaign in winning fashion but were made to work hard by a competitive Nigeria who eventually succumbed to a lone Marie-Laure Delie strike just after the interval.



Matilda Sally Shipard shows the Brazilians a thing or two.



And all the world is football shaped.



Kerstin Garefrekes and Celia Okoyino Da Mbabi (above) gave Germany a 2-1 win over Canada in the opening game of the tournament in front of 73,680 football fans at Berlin's Olympiastadion.



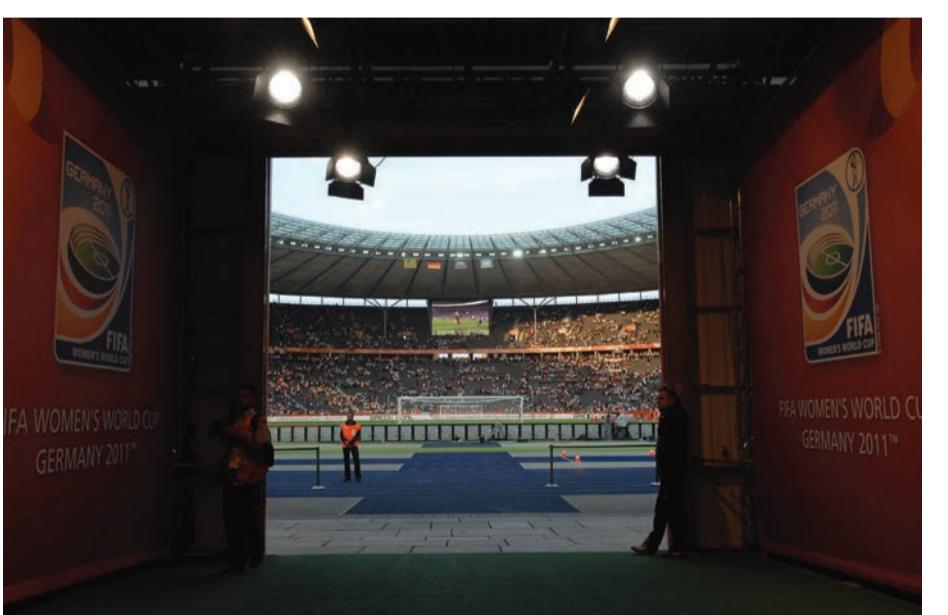
The Matildas line up prior to commencing their World Cup assault.



Canada's Christine Sinclair pulls one back late in the game against Germany.



Captain Melissa Barbieri proudly leads out the Matildas against Brazil.



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Photographic works by Paul Lau

27 October – 13 November 2011 Huw Davies Gallery
Photoaccess at the Manuka Arts Centre Canberra Australia



Diamond Geezers Dept.**LONDON CALLING**

With Leroy Robinson in the UK

Another offseason means another bucket load of transfer speculation. But that's about all there's been this week. So, in the absence of any controversy, it's time to take a look at three players of world renown that could be plying their trade in England come the start of August if certain teams get their wish.

Neymar

Top of everyone's wish list is the dynamic attacker from Santos. Characterised by his outlandish hair and flamboyant play, there is just as much substance to the Brazilian as there is style. So much is expected of him that it is easy to forget that he is still only 19.

He is a very similar player to Robinho, who also played for Santos. Four major European sides were said to be in with a shout of signing him. Of those four, two – Chelsea and Manchester City – are based in England. Whereas City seem to be trying to sign anyone with two legs and a good reputation, Chelsea have been linked with Neymar for near enough a year.

There are, however, several problems for suitors of Neymar. He can be quite temperamental, which is a byword for immaturity. Sometimes he has a habit of playing for himself and not the team, which is fine in Brazil but in European leagues that rely just as much on teamwork and discipline as they do flair, this sort of thing won't go down too well.

There are rumours that Real Madrid would love to have him, as long as he cuts his hair and is in bed with a cup of cocoa before sundown. The latter might be exaggerated but real are wary of a player who was involved in a fight after Santos' Copa Libertadores win. Another drawback is Santos. They were giving suitors the come-on not so long ago and in the past few days have called the wedding off by saying he's not for sale.

"Technically," Santos President Luis Alvaro Ribeiro said in a recent statement, "he is the best active Brazilian player. He was decisive in the conquest of four titles for Santos in the past 18 months, plus the pre-Olympics for the Brazil national squad, at the start of the year. He is the

biggest idol in the national team while playing in the country, something which had not happened in many years."

Reading between the lines that means they want as much as they can get for him. He is in the Brazil squad for the Copa America in Argentina, so this could all be a ploy to jack up the price. On the plus side, Robinho seems to have settled well at AC Milan, after a shaky start to his career in Europe, so there is hope for Neymar.

Also, this guy is very talented and has done nothing but score goals in the last couple of years. In 103 games started for Santos and for various Brazilian national teams over the past 2-3 years, he has scored 62 goals: not bad for an attacking midfielder. He only has 14 assists though, which could tell you where his strengths lie.

Any team paying the €45 million buyout clause need to be certain they will not only start him but that they can handle the inevitable baggage that will accompany him from Brazil.

Javier Pastore

The 22 year-old Argentine has been at the centre of transfer speculation throughout the off-season. To be fair, much of it has been due to the continued comments of Palermo's President, Maurizio Zamperini. He cannot seem to keep his mouth buttoned and constantly talks about the player's asking price and which clubs he could go to.

"The player is 90 per cent sure of leaving Palermo this summer," the president said to Radio Mana Mana last week. "I hear from [Walter] Sabatini [of AS Roma] every two or three days, but we have never talked about Pastore," he added. "We'll see, though. It all depends on the bid Roma make. With the right offer, Pastore could go to Roma."

The thing to note is that there have been no concrete offers for Pastore, but that small fact hasn't stopped Zamperini, who does sound like an auctioneer at times. Pastore himself hasn't said he wants to leave, but for €50 million he could be going to Chelsea or Manchester City, according to reports.

What would teams be getting? For a start, they would be getting a player who certainly is

Javier Pastore**The Three Wise Men****Neymar**

not worth such a large fee. He is an elegant attacking midfield player who is in the mould of someone like Kaka. He has a silky first touch, always seems to be in space when he gets the ball and is a great passer. He is not as explosive as Neymar but is more disciplined and can work in the same areas as Frank Lampard, hence the Chelsea link.

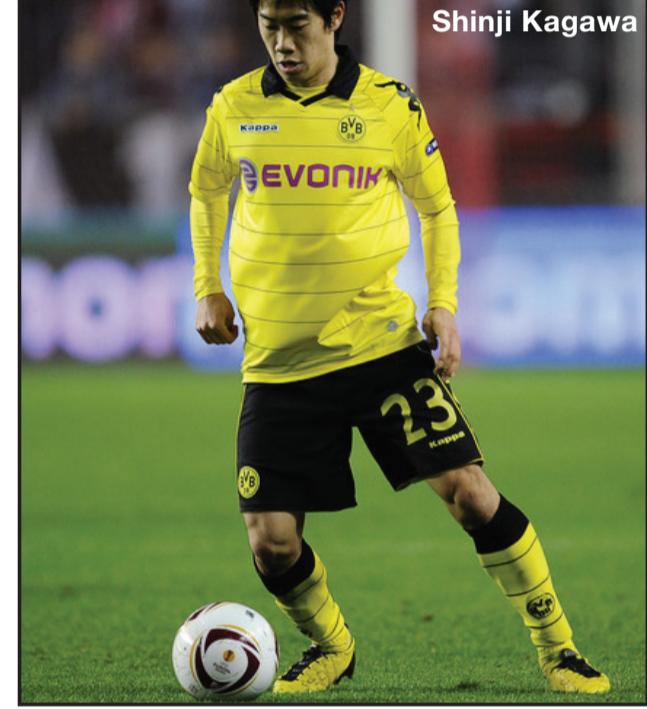
His problem is that he can look a little laboured at times and lacks the work rate that teams in England demand. He may also not be so suited to the physical demands of the English game, and may prefer to stay in Italy or go to Spain. He is also unproven at the highest level and hasn't really looked the part when he has played for Argentina. However, any team that gets Javier to sign on the dotted line will

acquire a player who scored 11 times in his 34 league games for Palermo and grabbed 5 assists. In the conservative Italian league those are fine stats for a midfielder.

Shinji Kagawa

In their never-ending search for an attacking midfielder that can play in the centre, Manchester United are said to be interested in Shinji Kagawa of Borussia Dortmund. The German champions have said they have no intention of selling, and United haven't confirmed their interest. For his part, Kagawa has said he is happy in Dortmund and after an injury-interrupted first season insists he still has plenty to prove.

That doesn't mean he wouldn't welcome a transfer to OT. The impressive thing about the Japa-

**Shinji Kagawa**

nese is how he adapted so easily to life in a foreign land. Stolen from Cerezo Osaka for a measly €300,000, he scored eight goals in 17 starts for Dortmund. He did miss most of the second part of the season through injury. However, he showed enough for the scouts in Europe to begin circling Signal Iduna Park for the 22 year-old star.

Kagawa, though not as technically gifted as Neymar or Pastore, does have an eye for goal and a disciplined approach to playing attacking midfield that suits playing in Europe. He picks his moments to break forward, and it isn't surprising if United see him as an ideal replacement for Paul Scholes. In many ways it is probably better for all parties if the Japanese continues in Germany, to see if his last season was just a flash in the pan

or the start of something special. The problem for United is that by waiting the price may go up. Dortmund's Sporting Director Michael Zorc had this to say to Bild magazine about Kagawa:

"Kagawa's sale is not an issue... Our ambition is to extend [Kagawa's contract] early... When he returns from leave [at the Kirin Cup with Japan], we will discuss everything with him in peace."

Not for sale. That's what they all say, until the player is sold! If money is the only factor, these three players could be mesmerising defences in the Premier League come August. And, given their ages, they could be doing it for years to come.

Stats:
ESPNSOCCERNET.COM

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ROSS ANTONIADIS

Richmond Eagles FC



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



FULL NAME: Ross Antoniadis
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne
BIRTH DATE: 19 March 1978
HEIGHT: 184cm
WEIGHT: 81 kg
MARRIED: Yes
CAR: VZ Holden Commodore
NICKNAME: Rosco
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Western Suburbs, Altona East, Bulleen/Whittlesea Zebras
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: State representative - seniors
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: John Barnes
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Steven Gerrard
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Steve Pantelidis, Michael Theoklitos
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Peter Ollerton
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Luke Wilkshire
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Winning 2004 VPL Grand Final
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Liverpool v West Ham, Anfield
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: All 7 were memorable
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: 1986 World Cup
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Watching Steve Martin try to get through a game with severe gastro. It ended dirtily.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing 2007 VPL Grand Final
WORST INJURY: Tearing hamstring tendon
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Peter Kakos
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bob Jane Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: Don't shave on match day
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Whatever the wife prepares
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Leave that for others to judge
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Speed (just ask Chatz), inconsistent commitment towards training
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Liverpool FC, PAOK Salonika, Heidelberg United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Aussie Rules
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Nathan Buckley
FAVOURITE FOODS: Pizza, chocolate
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Jack Nicholson,
HOBBIES: Golf, books
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Kozani
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: These days, my theatre room with the 50 inch plasma
IDEAL DATE: 4 July 2004 (Greece winning Euro Cup), 25 May 2005 (Liverpool winning Champions League)
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Seinfeld, On the Couch, EPL highlights
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Notis Sfakianakis
FAVOURITE FILM: Shawshank Redemption
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Liverpool FC
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Too many to mention
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Maurice Luna, Alan Holm
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Pre-seasons, losing, injury
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To get through next 5 games without injury
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: Either Steven Gerard, Kenny Dalglish or Beyonce Knowles
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Brisbane Roar
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Northcote City

FFV claims compo for Bailey Wright

MACKENZIE AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

BAILEY Wright is at the centre of a compensation dispute that could go all the way to FIFA headquarters.

The Preston North End teenager signed a professional contract with the Deepdale club late last year and his deal takes him through to the end of the 2012/13 season.

The compensation issue has only recently been revived as Wright nears the magical five games appearance mark that triggers a compensation package which should see Langwarrin, Mornington and Dandenong Thunder become beneficiaries.

All three clubs agreed a compensation package with Preston North End a couple of years back and copies of their signed agreements have been lodged by Preston with the English Football Association. Those agreements state that Langwarrin accepts a £5000 compo payment with Mornington and Thunder agreeing to £500 each.

Preston and the English FA see those agreements as binding but Football Federation Victoria, backed up by Football Federation Australia, takes a different view.

FFV claims that it is entitled to training compensation for the time Wright spent with the Victorian Institute of Sport program. Its claim centres on its view that the VIS was akin to a club.

"The VIS was set up as a club as have all the NTC (National Training Centre) programs across Australia," said FFV CEO Mark Rendell.

"There are continuing issues regarding training compensation payments and it's not unusual for overseas clubs to show some reluctance to making these payments.

"However, significant hundreds of thousands of euros have come into NTC programs throughout Australia in recent times which is evidence of these programs being set up legitimately and appropriately to be entitled to such compensation."

"Bailey's situation is the first major one involving the VIS. Irrespective of the outcome we wish Bailey all the best and we are delighted that he's forging a professional career overseas," Rendell added.

His delight obviously is shared by Wright's father, Andy, but the idea that FFV should receive compensation leaves Andy Wright scratching his head in bewilderment.

"I thought the VIS was government funded," he said. "And even then we had to pay for 90 percent of his involvement."

"Bailey captained Victoria twice as a junior and we had to pay for his airfares and his accommodation and they wouldn't even let the boys keep their strips when they got back to Melbourne."

"To be honest, the three clubs here that signed off on the compensation package didn't even blink an eyelid. They were just happy to receive some money for the time Bailey was with them and they wanted him to succeed overseas."

Andy Wright spoke to Ian Greener when Greener was head coach of the VIS program and it's believed that Greener thought that there was no compensation due FFV.

But the introduction of the Australian Institute of Sport team into Victoria's Premier League in 2007 also heralded the entry of Wright and his VIS teammates into that league's reserves competition.

This is another point FFV will raise to add weight to its compo claim.

FFV's stance has opened up a can of worms as the federation is investigating the validity under FIFA rules of the agreements signed by Langwarrin, Mornington and Thunder.

Those agreements would appear to be binding under common law but whether or not they stand up to scrutiny under FIFA laws remains to be seen.

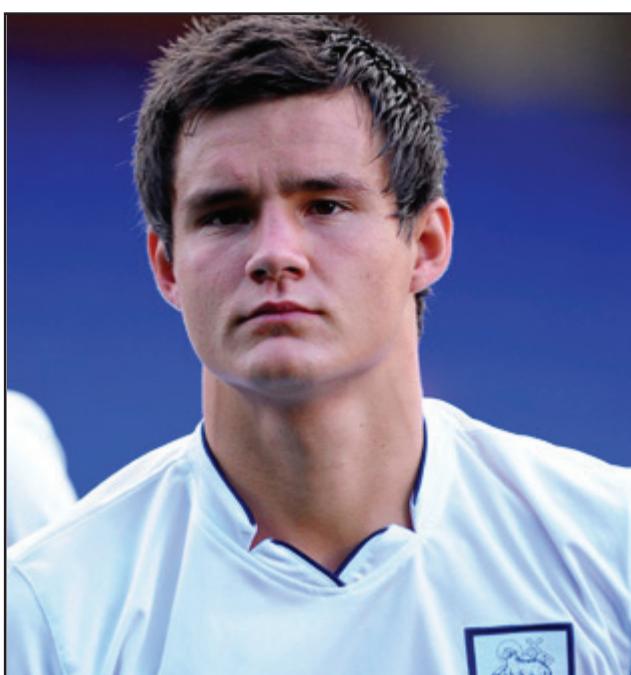
If those agreements are ruled invalid by FIFA then Preston North End may face the prospect of finding considerably larger training compensation amounts than what it previously understood.

It was put to me on the weekend that FIFA's compo formula could see Langwarrin due close to 60,000 euros. As at noon yesterday (Sunday) that was \$80,813 and 40 cents.

If my information is right then Langwarrin faces a significant ethical dilemma. Will the current committee abide by the club's agreement with Preston or will it make a grab for cash, a move that could cause much angst given the Wright family's close ties with the club?

Andy Wright signed off on this issue in a typically straightforward manner:

"It's ridiculous to compensate FFV when the federation even set up a payment scheme to help



Preston North End teenager Bailey Wright.



Frankston Pines player-coach Billy Armour in action against Peninsula Strikers on Saturday. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY.

families financially disadvantaged by all the money they had to fork out to send their kids to national championships.

"If anyone should be compensated for all their time, effort and money then it's the families of these young players."

Morris-Thomas back at Pines

MATT MORRIS-THOMAS has been the focus of wild speculation over the past few days concerning his recent return to Frankston Pines from Mornington.

The peninsula has been abuzz with talk of a massive signing-on fee up front and huge match payments. I was told that Morris-Thomas received a \$9000 signing-on fee and \$500 match payments. GW photographer Darryl Kennedy heard that Morris-Thomas was getting anywhere between \$1000 to \$1500 a game and a bonus overseas holiday if Pines avoided the drop.

I was half expecting that someone would phone me to tell me that If those agreements are ruled invalid by FIFA then Preston North End may face the prospect of finding considerably larger training compensation amounts than what it previously understood.



Matt Morris-Thomas.

Morris-Thomas had been offered the position of Mayor of Frankston.

My head was swimming as I tried to comprehend these figures given the club's well-known debt situation that has encumbered it for some seasons.

I contacted Pines on the weekend and a club insider quashed the rumours in one fell swoop telling me that Morris-Thomas was on the same deal he had with Mornington but received "three or four" weeks' payment in advance "to help him out with a car."

Getting back to normality took a wee while then I contacted Mornington coach Adam Jamieson to get his take on things.

"Matt contacted me on a Tuesday night via text then I spoke to him the next morning and he confirmed that he was going back to Pines," said Jamieson.

"He's was honest with me and I understood his situation. He's 21 and he's got two young kids so it was difficult to knock back the offer.

"I wish Matt all the best but I'm really disappointed at the way Pines went about it."

"We're on the lookout now to add another player to the squad but we've put ourselves in a good position and it's up to us to maintain the push (for promotion)," he added.

Morris-Thomas is just one of a series of changes at Pines in recent weeks which started with Jamie McMinimee taking over as president and an old Pines favourite in Billy Armour signing up as player-coach.

Neil Southerington is secretary, Rachel McMinimee is treasurer and Steve Spence is vice-president.

The playing squad has been significantly revamped under Armour with seven new signings and a

striker with VPL Under-21 experience due to train with the club this week.

The newcomers are Ed Southerington, a central midfielder who returns to the club from Morwell Pegasus; Jarrod Preston, a central defender from Pegasus; Matty Jensen, a right-sided midfielder or striker from Peninsula Strikers; Davie Jones, another striker from Strikers; two forwards from Langwarrin in Lewis Manor and Caleb Vaughan; and James Haggerty, a defender from Strikers who is expected to be available this week.

"The boys didn't really come and out play. It was probably the worst I've seen them this year," said Armour after losing Saturday's local derby 1-0 away to Strikers.

"There's 10 games left now and every game is a cup final for us. I'll die trying to get us out of this and I expect that from all the players."

"As soon as we get our first three points that will kick us off and we'll see what we can make of it from there."

Nicholson has his say

STUART NICHOLSON has hit back at criticism by Bentleigh Greens of his recent switch to State One outfit Whittlesea.

A fortnight back Greens president Con Bios and team manager John Ioannou took aim at Nicholson and five other players who left the club during the recent VPL transfer window.

"I don't know what they want to prove," said Nicholson. "Talking about paying a bond for my accommodation didn't make sense. In England you get the bond back. I would have thought that it was the same here."

"Yes I had agreed to stay but when Whittlesea came in for me they made me an offer I couldn't refuse. I rang Johnny (Ioannou)

and told him that I'd changed my mind.

"I don't know why certain figures (a \$4000 signing-on fee) were mentioned because those figures are a load of bullshit."

Nicholson admits to becoming disenchanted when Greens sacked Andy O'Dell as coach earlier this season. O'Dell and Toby Paterson had paid for Nicholson's airfare to Melbourne.

"I wasn't happy with the way the club went about it and I wasn't the same player after that."

He's happy with his new surrounds though and is looking forward to maintaining Whittlesea's promotion push.

"I was impressed with what the manager (Domenic Barba) had to say and I was impressed with the club's ambition."

Nicholson is on a tourist visa and hopes to extend it for next season.



Stuart Nicholson

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:

CAMBERWELL
COLLINGWOOD
CARLTON NORTH
VERMONT SOUTH
CAULFIELD
GLEN WAVERLEY

FOOTSCRAY
BOX HILL
PRESTON
HAWTHORN
CARLTON
ENDEAVOUR HILLS

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COMPETITIONS
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5-A-SIDE
INDOOR
SOCCER



Box Hill and South keep up the chase on Sandy

By Dalton Woods

Round 13 of the Women's Premier League was characterised by high scoring matches, including a 6-4 win to Box Hill United over the Emerging Athletes Program, and a 7-0 thrashing of VCL Country at the hands of the dominant South Melbourne side.

Box Hill's triumph was only further enhanced upon when they beat Ashburton 2-0 at Ashburton Park. Meanwhile, Altona enjoyed a narrow win over Doncaster, and despite being several places above them on the ladder, Casey were unable to defeat Bundoora, having to settle for a draw.

The round was opened by a 10 goal thriller at Wembley Park. When Box Hill and EAP played off against each other earlier in the season, it was a relatively uneventful 2-1 victory for the more experienced Box Hill. This time, however, the ball hit the back of the net 10 times in only 62 minutes, two of these credited to Box Hill's Morgan Anderson, who was rested for Box Hill's second game of the weekend.

On Friday, the two fledgling sides of Doncaster and Altona faced off. As in Round 6, Altona proved their superiority by once again defeating the Rovers by one goal. And yet again it was Padiki Dade who gave her side the lead.

This match was followed by an evenly contested encounter between the out of form Casey Comets and the middle of the table Bundoora United side. Had Casey claimed the victory, they would be on top of the table, but in what was something of an upset, were incapable of drawing ahead of the battling Bundoora team. Bundoora's two goals, which both times gave them the lead, were both courtesy of Kariah White.

In the most dominant game of the weekend, South Melbourne absolutely crushed the bottom of the table VCL Country. The victors piled on seven unanswered goals, all in the second half. Four came from the boot of Laura Spiranovic, while the other three were thanks to Annabelle Gibney. This victory should bolster South Melbourne's position near the top of the standings, while further demoralising the struggling VCL Country.

On Sunday, Box Hill played for the second time of the round, sans Morgan Anderson, to claim their second victory of the round, this time against Ashburton. After a scoreless first half, sub Alison Baker scored two goals within 11 minutes to hand Box Hill the 3 points.

The round is yet to be concluded, with Heidelberg still to play the top of the table Sandringham side. This may well serve to further compound Heidelberg's poor form of late, coming off three consecutive losses: 2-1, 3-0 and 5-0 respectively.



Yvette Muscat (Box Hill) gets up to snuff out an Ashburton attack Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Box Hill defender Madeleine Richardson shields the ball from Ashburton captain Christine Pfeiffer Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Seyma Erenli (Ashburton) is confronted by Box Hill's Kat Smith (left), with Yvette Muscat in support Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Seyma Erenli (Ashburton) is confronted by Box Hill's Kat Smith (left), with Yvette Muscat in support Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

WPL RESULTS

Doncaster Rovers 1 (E Johnson)
Altona City 2 (A Komijat P Dade)

Bundoora Utd 2 (K White 2)
Casey Comets 2 (T Brown D Lawrence)

South Melbourne Womens FC 7
(A Gibney 3 L Spiranovic 4)
VCL Country 0

Ashburton 0
Box Hill United 2

Res:
Doncaster Rovers 1
Altona City 0

Bundoora Utd 3
Casey Comets 1

Ashburton 0
Box Hill United 3

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandringham	13	9	1	3	28	9	28
South Melb	14	8	3	3	39	12	27
Box Hill United	15	8	3	4	30	24	27
Casey Comets	14	8	2	4	33	19	26
Heidelberg Utd	13	7	1	5	21	23	22
Bundoora Utd	15	5	5	5	22	18	20
Ashburton	15	6	2	7	23	25	20
Altona City	14	6	2	6	19	24	20
Emerging Ath	13	4	2	7	29	38	14
Doncaster R	14	2	1	11	12	36	7
VCL Country	14	3	0	11	11	39	6

WPL Next Round

Casey Comets v Emerging Athlete DISC
Wed 6 Jul KO 7:30PM

Box Hill United v South Melbourne
Wembley Park
Fri 8 Jul KO 8:30PM

VCL Country v Bundoora Utd
McEwen Reserve, Shepparton
Sun 10 Jul KO 1:00PM

Heidelberg Utd v Altona City
Olympic Village
Sun 10 Jul KO 1:00PM

Casey Comets v Sandringham SC
Comets Stadium
Sun 10 Jul KO 3:00PM

Ashburton v Doncaster Rovers
Ashburton Park
Sun 10 Jul KO 3:00PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	12	12	0	0	49	8	36
South Melb	11	8	2	1	39	13	26
Sandringham	10	6	1	3	19	7	19
Bundoora Utd	12	4	3	5	13	15	15
Casey Comets	12	4	2	6	26	24	14
Ashburton	11	4	0	7	21	25	12
Heidelberg Utd	11	2	3	6	16	32	9
Altona City	11	2	3	6	9	26	9
Doncaster R	12	1	2	9	9	51	5
Emerging Athl	0				0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0

All matches to be played on Saturday 9th July with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State NW 2

Geelong v Moreland City

Stead Park Reserve Fri 8 Jul KO 8:30PM

Whittlesea Ranges FC v Westgate

Partridge Reserve

Altona City v Williamstown

HC Kim Reserve

Altona East Phoenix v Brunswick City

Paisley Park Socce...

Banyule City v FC Clifton Hill

Yallambie Park Reserve

Ballarat Red Devils v Werribee City

Trekarlo Park 3 Sep KO 3:00PM

State SE 2

Doncaster Rovers v Heatherton Utd

Anderson Park Fri 8 Jul KO 8:30PM

Casey Comets v Dandenong City

Comets Stadium

Eastern Lions v Malvern City

Gardiners Creek Reserve

Knox City v Morwell Pegasus

Egan Lee Reserve

Noble Park Utd v Box Hill United

Parkfield Reserve

South Springvale v Diamond Valley Utd

Warner Reserve

State NW 3

Cairnlea v Geelong Rangers

Cairnlea Park

Hume Utd v Yarraville Glory

Laura Douglas Reserve

Keilor Park v Melbourne University

Keilor Park Reserve

Sunbury Utd v Maribyrnong Greens

Langama Park

Sydenham Park v Avondale Heights

Keilor Lodge Reserve

Whittlesea Utd v La Trobe University

Thomas Street Recreational Res

State SE 3

Croydon City Arrows v Fitzroy City

Dorset Recreational Res Fri 8 Jul KO 8:30PM

Waverley Wanderers v Kingston City

Carlson Avenue Reserve

Berwick City v Peninsula Strikers

Jack Thomas Reserve

Mornington v Old Scotch

Dallas Brooks Park

Frankston Pines v Nunawading City FC

Monterey Reserve Sat 9 Jul KO 7:00PM

North Caulfield v Doveton

Caulfield Park Sun 10 Jul KO 3:00PM

Provi NW 1

FC Strathmore v Sporting Whittlesea FC

Strathnairn Reserve

Laverton Park v Westvale

Laverton Park Reserve

Northern Falcons v Corio

Hayes Park

South Yarra v North City Lions

Fawkner Park (Northern Pavilion)

Essendon Utd v North Sunshine Eagles

Aberfeldie Park

Surf Coast v Western Eagles

Quay Reserve

Provi SE 1

Warragul Utd v Old Melburnians

Baxter Park (Warragul)

Skye Utd v Beaumaris

Skye Recreational

Hampton Park Utd v Brandon Park

KM Reedy Reserve

Monash University v Sandringham SC

Monash University ...

Mooroolbark v Lyndale Utd

Esther Park Reserve

Springvale City v Old Camberwell Grammar

Ross Reserve

Provi NW 2

Bell Park v Lalor Utd

Bell Park Sports Club

Elwood City v Melbourne Tornado

Elwood Park

Hoppers Crossing v Northern Roosters

Grange Reserve

Moreland Utd v Melbourne City

Moomba Park Reserve

Plenty Valley Lions v West Preston

Sycamore Reserve

Upfield v Epping City

Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 2

Monbulk v Seaford Utd

Monbulk Recreational Res Fri 8 Jul KO 8:30PM

Old Carey v Casey Kings

Carey Sports Compl...

Caulfield United Cobras v Boroondara Eagles

Victory Park

Endeavour Utd v Ashburton United

Reeena Reserve

Keysborough v Uni. of Melbourne

Coomoora Reserve

Bayside Argonauts v Riversdale

Shipston Reserve

Provi NW 3

Balmoral FC v Brunswick Zebras

Arthur Beachley Reserve

Brimbank Stallions v Essendon Royals

Club Italia Sporti...

Heidelberg Stars v Youth Utd

Cartledge Reserve

Meadow Park Eagles v Moreland Wolves

Gladstone Park Reserve

Watsonia Heights v Mill Park

Gabonia Reserve

Melton Phoenix FC v Darebin Utd

MacPhersons Park Sat 9 Jul KO 7:00PM

Provi SE 3

Baxter v Brighton

Baxter Park

Collingwood City v Eltham Redbacks FC

Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Middle Park FC v Noble Park

Albert Park Field 16

Old Trinity Gramm v White Star Dandenong

Trinity Sports Ground

Rowville Eagles v East Bentleigh

Park Ridge Reserve

Old Brighton Grammarians v Whitehorse Utd

Dendy Park

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Brunswick City 3 Whittlesea Ranges FC 1 (D Fak), FC Clifton Hill 2 Geelong 0, Moreland City 1 Altona East Phoenix 2, Werribee City 1 Banyule City 1, Williamstown 0 Ballarat Red Devils 2, Westgate 0 Altona City 1 (M Mintoff)

Brunswick City 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC 3 (D Giogha J Yiah K Samuel), FC Clifton Hill 1 Geelong 1, Moreland City 3 Altona East Phoenix 0, Werribee City 1 Banyule City 0, Williamstown 0 Ballarat Red Devils 2, Westgate 1 Altona City 0

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Werribee City	12	8	3	1	20	9 24
Moreland City	11	7	0	4	35	18 21
Brunswick City	12	7	3	2	25	13 21
Ballarat Red Devils	12	6	3	3	23	15 21
FC Clifton Hill	12	7	3	2	18	12 21
Whittlesea Ranges FC	10	5	4	1	15	7 19
Altona East Phoenix	12	4	2	6	18	20 14
Westgate	12	5	1	6	19	23 13
Geelong	12	3	2	7	16	28 11
Altona City	12	2	2	8	11	22 8
Williamstown	11	2	2	7	5	19 8
Banyule City	12	0	3	9	10	29 3

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Werribee City	11	7	2	2	26	15 23
Moreland City	10	7	1	2	36	13 21
Ballarat Red Devils	12	6	3	3	20	13 21
Brunswick City	12	6	2	4	26	18 20
Banyule City	12	6	2	4	17	12 20
FC Clifton Hill	11	5	3	3	22	14 18
Altona East Phoenix	10	5	2	3	13	10 17
Altona East Phoenix	12	5	1	6	20	25 16
Westgate	12	4	1	7	12	16 13
Geelong	12	4	1	7	16	28 11
Altona City	12	3	2	8	11	22 8
Williamstown	11	2	2	7	5	19 8
Banyule City	12	0	2	10	7	35 2

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Avondale Heights 0 Cairnlea 2, Geelong Rangers 1 Whittlesea Utd 4 (S Mirik J Barrientos 2 T Korkmaz), La Trobe University 2 (P Devuono N Vissaris) Hume Utd 1, Maribyrnong Greens 0 Sydenham Park 3, Yarraville Glory 0 Keilor Park 0, Melbourne University 0 Sunbury Utd 0

Avondale Heights 1 Cairnlea 2, Geelong Rangers 0 Whittlesea Utd 4 (G Tam 2 O Ayache 2), La Trobe University 7 (GGasso S Busso T Randala J Chaban C Oghanna 2 Own Goal) Hume Utd 0, Maribyrnong Greens 0 Sydenham Park 4, Yarraville Glory 2 Keilor Park 5 (M Dragovic 2 M Mohamed M McGroarty 2), Melbourne University 0 Sunbury Utd 0

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	12	8	4	0	25	7 28
Sydenham Park	12	6	1	5	16	21 19
La Trobe University	12	6	1	5	17	16 19
Yarraville Glory	12	5	3	4	20	14 18
Melbourne University	12	5	3	4	18	13 18
Cairnlea	12	5	3	4	20	19 18
Avondale Heights	12	5	3	4	17	19 18
Hume Utd	12	5	2	5	19	16 17
Whittlesea Utd	12	5	1	6	21	28 16
Sunbury Utd	12	3	3	6	15	19 12
Maribyrnong Greens	12	3	1	8	23	33 10
Geelong Rangers	12	2	3	7	15	31 10

P

Keilor Park opens up 9 point gap in State NW3

By Michal Skrodsky

Well folks, this week there is no need for any long winded introduction. We were blessed with some lovely weather on Saturday and with that came some lovely football! Let's get straight into the action, shall we?

State 2 NW saw promotion candidates Moreland City suffer a very surprising loss at home 1-2 to Altona East Phoenix, the Phoenix must have had a secret angel on their side. This means Werribee City cemented their position on top of the table but the lead should be bigger, the Bees only managed a disappointing 1-1 draw with lowly Banyule City. Werribee are on 24 points, 3 points ahead of Moreland on 21 points in second place but there are four clubs on 21 points (Moreland City, Brunswick City, Ballarat and Clifton Hill) meaning the promotion fight is very open. Next week the crunch game can be found up the Western Freeway in Ballarat as the Red Devils take on Werribee in a top of the table bonanza.

State 2 SE had Dandenong City laugh their way to another 3-0 win over Doncaster Rovers at home. Dandenong City remain 6 points clear of second placed Malvern City who got over Knox City 1-0 at home, Malvern is now 4 points ahead of third placed Casey Comets who only managed a point in a 1-1 draw down in Morwell. Next week watch out for 3rd placed Casey Comets hosting Dandenong City, the Comets will fancy themselves at home against the runaway league leaders.

State 3 NW is all about over when it comes to the chase for the title, with Keilor maintaining a huge 9 point lead over second place despite a 0-0 draw at Yarraville. Avondale Heights lost 0-2 at home to Cairnlea and with that they dropped from 2nd to 7th position! Apart from Keilor Park this league is very close only 3 points separates 2nd down to 9th place! So there is plenty to play



Aidan Robertson scores the equaliser for Riversdale against Endeavour United.

for in this league and as Avondale Heights have shown, you can drop very fast with even one slip up.

State 3 SE had Mornington sitting clear 5 points on top last week, but this week Kingston has taken the much wanted number one position off the Seagulls. Kingston managed to win their match 6-0 last Monday against North Caulfield and backed that up with another impressive 3-0 win over promotion hopefuls Fitzroy City on the road. Mornington had a shock 1-2 loss at Nunawading City, but the Seagulls will be confident this match was a one off. Kingston only have the lead by goal difference and Old Scotch is in third hot on their tails 2 points behind. Elsewhere, Peninsula Strikers won a closely fought Frankston derby over the Pines 1-0. Next week's match of the round is Mornington hosting the bourgeois boys from Old Scotch.

Provisional 1 NW looks a little different this week with Sporting Whitemesa occupying the highest position on the table for the first time this

season. Corio; who have been out in front most the season, failed to win again this week, they had a poor 1-2 loss at home to South Yarra. Sporting got over the top of Northern Falcons at home 2-1 and sit 2 points clear of Corio. South Yarra's win has pushed them back into third only 1 point off Corio. North Sunshine's inconsistency continued with a splitting 0-2 loss at home to relegation battler Strathmore.

Provisional 1 SE had Beaumaris win a crucial match against fellow promotion candidate; Warragul United, 3-2 at home. Beaum are still 2nd by goal difference to Springvale City who only managed a 0-0 result at Sandringham, but please keep in mind that Beaumaris has played one less match. The result in Beaumaris means that Warragul have dropped to 4th and their is now a 5 point gap between 2nd placed Beaumaris and 3rd placed Old Melburnians who are 3rd thanks to a gripping 4-2 win over Hampton Park. Next week Warragul can take back 3rd when they host Old Mel-

burnians in a crucial match.

Provisional 2 NW saw West Preston extend their lead from 2 points to 4 points at the top following a thrilling 3-2 win over Elwood City. Second placed Moreland United had a disappointing result again this week after only managing a 0-0 at 2nd-last Northern Roosters. The last two weeks have played right into the hands of Lalor United who have come from nowhere to being 3rd and only off 2nd by goal difference, proving how quickly form and change. This week Lalor got over Hoppers Crossing 3-1 at home.

Provisional 2 SE is a very close and surprising league with every game being a 6 pointer. This week top placed Old Carey were smashed 1-4 at home by 3rd placed Monbulk meaning the Bulkies sit on top 2 points ahead of Old Carey. Bayside Argonauts could have jumped into top spot with a win this week but returned from University of Melbourne with only 1 point following a 1-1 draw, Bayside sit 1 point off



Heads or tails? Captains Nick Rossos and Hardeep Garcha call the toss of the coin at kick-off.

Old Carey. Only 3 points are between 2nd placed Old Carey and 7th placed Caulfield United.

Provisional 3 NW saw two matches abandoned this week, Youth United vs Melton was postponed due to a poor playing surface, while Essendon Royals vs Balmoral was sadly abandoned at half time. This report was informed that it was due to a Balmoral player losing the plot and threatening to kill the referee! The Royals were leading 2-0 at half and one will thinking common sense will prevail and the 3 points will be awarded to the team from Essendon. Essendon were on top last week, but are 4th after their game was abandoned as Brunswick Zebras, Heidelberg Stars and Moreland Wolves all picked up points this week. Heidelberg are on top following a huge 4-1 win at Mill Park, 1 point below you will find Brunswick Zebras who got over Watsonia Heights comfortably in a 3-0 win. Moreland Wolves only managed a 1-1 at home to Brimbank Stallions and are 2 points off Brunswick Zebras.

Provisional 3 SE saw Middle Park lose their second game in a row after winning their first ten, last week it was understandable as they lost to fellow big guns Collingwood City but this week they suffered a 1-2 loss to mid-tabled Baxter at home. Collingwood kept on their roll with a 2-0 win at Brighton and now sit 3 points head of Middle Park. Middle Park are now only 2 points ahead of 3rd placed Whitehorse United who have a real sniff of promotion now, Whitehorse smashed Old Trinity 5-1 at home this week. White Star Dandenong got over their Romanian rivals 2-1 and continue their good midseason form.

Well that's it folks for another week, as always get down and support your local club, not only financially but vocally too! There are only 10 rounds remaining this season so make the most of it because this reporter can guarantee you will miss it come September 17th when the lower leagues finish up!

CRUNCHALOR!



Riversdale line up prior to kick off on Saturday: Back row: Tony Amato (coach), Joe Adamo, Kurt Crnic, Aidan Robertson, Oliver Zwafl, Mark Findlay, Anthony Forsyth, Tomasz Piszczyk, Glen McPhee, Shaun Chapneviss, Bill Vasilopoulos(RGK). Front row: Nick Gatwech Chuol, Niall Geoghegan(GK), Declan Seca, Nick Rossios (captain), Callum McCaskie, Ange Anagnostopoulos.

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Southern Stars crack open up title race

Southern Stars off off and away.
After ending Southern Stars 22 game unbeaten streak early on in the season Port were keen to pick up were they left off. It took a couple of minutes for both teams to find their feet as Port virtually flooded there defence.

As Port started gaining momentum it finally payed off in the 44th minute as Tim Paton lashed onto a cross and sent Port into the half time break with a 1-0 lead. The second half opened with increased intensity from Southerners. Port uncharacteristically were sitting back which gave Stars belief that the Port defence would be opened.

The goal came and it was as a result of a mistake by the normally calm Port keeper who scuffed a clearance straight to Star's new signing Colin Quirke who must have thought it was Christmas in July hit a shot past the keeper who had frantically back pedalled to try and get into position.

The goal lifted Star's spirits and rocked Port who up until that stage had been cruising. Within 5 minutes Stars had taken the game away from Port and brought the unbeaten run to an end. An excellent through ball by Star's midfield was deftly controlled by the Stars forward and calmly steered into the corner of the goal. This was not the first time that Port had found themselves behind this season although it was the first time they had squandered a lead and so were entering uncharted waters. Port's emptied its bench in a attempt to gain a share of the points. A first loss for Port, revenge for Stars and the promotion race remains a three way dance between Port, Stars and Whittlesea.

Altona work their Magic

Both teams went into this game all but keen to secure three points. Altona added five new signings which included Michael Silver, Milos Lucic, Rini Murqii, Dennis Ukalovski and Benjamin Vahid. Fawkner were just as hungry who were only a inch away from the top two.

The game started with Fawkner kicking with the wind and piling on pressure but to there credit Altona's defence stood tall. On the 25th minute mark Fawkner were given a controversial penalty as two players collided in the box. The penalty was easily put away by Fawkner and they were confident off snatching victory.

On the 30th minute mark a well struck corner fell to the feet of Kole Delev whos strike went finger tips away from the bar. The game started to get physical and Altona enjoyed a happy period. On the 40th minute mark another well struck corner was headed towards goal by Sime Kovacevic and put away by teammate George Papadopoulos. Fawkner were quite disappointed to go into half time with a draw.

The second half started with the three Altona attackers causing grief for the Fawkner defence particularly new signing Dennis Ukalovski. There was a few testing shoots for Altona but all half chances until another corner taken by new boy Rini Murqii was met by Sime Kovacevic who heated towards goal and quick scramble saw Dennis Ukalovski score on debut and send the away fans wild.

Another new signing caused a major scare for the home team with a testing 40 metre run only to be stopped by the Fawkner. The result stay as is and the Altona coach was quite happy telling his side that there season had only just started and with the new signings would be adamant of a top two finish.

Georgies edge past Vale

Fresh from the shock signing of Kevin Muscat, Sunshine were keen to welcome there hero home with a win.

The game started with a very high tempo played well by both sides. On the 2nd minute mark Pascoe Vale had a massive chance to hit the lead with Liam Flynn going one on one with Georgies keeper Mario Rosa only to see his shot well parried by Rosa.

The game continued with the same high tempo and on the 42nd minute Eddie Soares struck a wonderful corner which beat everyone and fell to the feet of Barry Devlin who converted. Georgies went into half time with a deserved 1 nil lead. Pascoe Vale



Nejdet Sahin (Fawkner) comes sweeping past as Dennis Ukalovski (Altona Magic) crashes to the turf after being tackled by Luka Anifaloyin.
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Referee Shaun Evans tries to calm a group of agitated players after a heavy clash. Players are (Left to right) Marcus Stergiopoulos, Rinor Murqii, Kole Delev, Dennis Ukalovski and Luka Anifaloyin. PHOTO: JOHN OUNSHON

started the second half attacking with winger Liam Flynn causing all sorts of problems.

They got there equaliser on the 64

minute mark as a Flynn cross found Marco Santilli who's shot was saved but finished off by Luka Santilli. To their credit Sunshine regained composure straight away and in the 68th minute a sensational curling free kick from Fiachra Merdale came off the bar. 76 minutes in Eddie Soares picked up a loose ball outside the area and curried it past the keeper to all but secure the game. Sunshine kept pressing till the end and finished off the game strong.

Zebras thump Lions

Preston Lions shocking season

continued as Whittlesea punished a woeful Lions to win the Mirabella North

ern Community Cup. With a healthy

crowd at Whittlesea opened

scoring 10 minutes in as Vincent

Fatherty lashed onto a through ball from

keeper Robert Santilli. After halftime

Vincent Fatherty was again on the

scoresheet as a cross sweetly found

his head. That goal split the game wide

open. On the 60th minute Fatherty was

a hat trick hero sharply putting away

his third goal. As the Zebras kept

pressing a shock counter attack seen

Igorce Kolveski give the Lions a slim

chance. As the match went on it was

all the Zebras and Matt Iuliano put the

icing on the cake in the last half hour

and secured the point. Hat trick

Vincent Fatherty was by far the Andrew

Zinni, Man of the match.

George Papadopoulos is fired up after scoring for Altona Magic. Dennis Ukalovski salutes his effort.

PHOTO: JOHN OUNSHON



SL1 RESULTS

Fawkner Blues 1
Altona Magic 2

North Geelong Warriors 0
Langwarrin 0

Southern Stars 2
Port Melbourne 1

Whittlesea Zebras 4
Preston Lions 1

Sunshine George Cross 2
Pascoe Vale 1

Western Suburbs 0
FC Bulleen Lions 1

U21s:
Fawkner Blues 3 Altona Magic 0, North Geelong Warriors 0 Langwarrin 0, Southern Stars 4 Port Melbourne 0, Western Suburbs 1 FC Bulleen Lions 4, Whittlesea Zebras 0 Preston Lions 1, Sunshine George Cross 0 Pascoe Vale 3

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	12	8	3	1	20	10	27
Whittlesea Z	12	8	2	2	19	9	26
Southern Stars	11	8	1	2	19	11	25
Fawkner Blues	12	6	0	6	16	10	18
Pascoe Vale	12	5	0	7	19	15	15
Sun George X	12	4	3	5	15	17	15
Altona Magic	12	5	2	5	15	16	14
Bulleen Lions	12	4	2	6	9	11	14
North Geelong	12	4	1	7	10	18	13
Langwarrin	11	3	3	5	15	20	12
Western Subs	12	3	2	7	12	21	11
Preston Lions	12	3	1	8	16	29	10

SL1 Next Round

Nth Geelong Warriors v Port Melbourne
Elcho Park
Fri 8 Jul KO 8:30PM

Altona Magic v Whittlesea Zebras
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
Sat 9 Jul KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v Sun George Cross
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Sat 9 Jul KO 3:00PM

Langwarrin v Western Suburbs
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 9 Jul KO 3:00PM

Preston Lions v Pascoe Vale
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 10 Jul KO 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v Fawkner Blues
Veneto Social Club
Mon 11 Jul KO 8:30PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	12	9	0	3	40	14	27
Fawkner Blues	12	7	3	2	32	19	24
Pascoe Vale	12	7	1	4	31	24	22
Western Subs	12	7	0	5	26	31	21
Whittlesea Z	12	6	2	4	24	21	20
Langwarrin	11	6	1	4	20	16	19
Southern Stars	11	6	1	4	27	25	19
North Geelong	12	5	2	5	18	15	17
Preston Lions	12	3	1	8	20	34	10
Sun George X	12	2	2	8	24	38	8
Port Melbourne	12	2	2	8	14	30	8
Altona Magic	12	2	3	7	18	27	6

SHORT PASSES

HORSEY'S BACK!!!
Essendon United FC secured the services of Vaughan Coveney last week. Coveney a former A-League and NSL star who also captained the New Zealand national team has been assisting United with specialist coaching for the last month. In a further effort to help Essendon retain its position in Provisional League One North West, Coveney made his debut for United as a player. Essendon United is Coveney's local club and he has been a keen follower of the club's progression over the years. In Saturday's game against Western Eagles Coveney scored what proved to be the winning goal in United's 2-1 victory. Essendon United were regarded as one of the most successful clubs in recent Victorian history achieving an amazing run of four straight promotions until the club suffered its first relegation from State League. The United faithful are hoping 'Horsey' can help bring some of that magic back.



V-LEAGUE NIKE PREMIERSHIP

Round 9



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By Matthew Montgomery

Albert Park FC v FC Prahran (2-1)

Round 9 of the NIKE V-League was kicked off with a bang when Prahran in 8th took on Albert Park in 11th. Prahran, who have had some varying results this season brought along a similar squad that earned their 3-3 draw with Metro last week. The only omission was Ahmed Muktar. Albert Park on the other hand were back to their old ways as they struggled to put together a competitive squad. Forward Sera Issa made his second appearance since round 6 and their outs consisted of James Danos, Chaban Rajab, Peter Ighnitidis and although captain Jason Ioanidis took to the pitch, he was clearly hampered by injury as he warmed the pine for large parts of the game. When the whistle blew to begin play, Prahran playmaker, Marcus Barbosa did not waste any time in opening his sides account as he scored from a tight angle. Seconds later, former Pascoe Vale team mate Ernie Simsek made it 2-0 in a matter of seconds. The goals that were scored in quick succession by Prahran seemed to mentally break an Albert Park side that had no intention of biting back, and sensing their vulnerability, Barbosa seized his opportunity and scored 4 thumping goals before the completion of the first half! And with singles from Ben Armstrong and Clint Mogoai, the 7-0 score line completed one of the most dominating displays of futsal witnessed this season. As Albert Park's captain, Jason Ioanidis, tried to battle through injury and make an impact in the second half, nothing it seemed was going to stop Barbosa from having a 'field day' on the score sheet as he scored another 4 goals in a row – including a beautiful nutmeg on Albert Park keeper Fadi Qunjar for goal of the week- to take his tally to 8 and make the match score 11-0. It was a sorry sight to see Albert Park in this sorry state, especially after their impressive 7-7 draw with Essendon last week. Two quick goals from strike duo Theo Ioanidis and Sera Issa showed what they were capable of, but a brace from Maxi Avram inflicted further pain. But it was only fitting that Barbosa put the final nail in the Albert Park coffin as he scored his 9th and finalised the 14-2 victory in impressive style. The win will definitely give Prahran some much needed confidence as they strive to find form, whereas it's a case of back to the drawing board for Albert Park.

HUGE results re-shape standings



Prahran's Marcus Barbosa (L) celebrates as he scores one of his 9 goals against Albert Park.



North's Brazilian playmaker, Tiago Priori (L), celebrates a goal with Alex Jankovic (R) by giving injured team mate, Kui Mu, a message of "strength" in his recovery.



Pascoe Vale's Joao Da Silva (white) was worn like a glove by Hume's Resit Culculoglu, as Hume defended in numbers and restricted the champions ability to play.



Metropolitan's Alja Redzepovic (L) is pressured by Fitzroy's Hamid Hassankhoo (R) as the two captains lead by example for their side.

Metropolitan FC v Fitzroy FC (3-6)

What a game for only the second clash on the card as Metropolitan in 3rd took on Fitzroy who are 4th in an encounter that will have a large effect on the outcome of the top four by the nights end. Metropolitan were fancying their chances for the win as they had the magical Ivan Zilic returning to the fold, along with the much-hyped youngster Jose Portillo. Fitzroy, who were coming from a bye last week fielded an un-changed line-up and were lucky to have the addition of influential striker Haider Noor for the big game. Even though Fitzroy had the bye last week, striker Cameron Holmes was able to continue his rich vein of scoring form (3 and 5 goals in the last two weeks) by opening his sides account as Metro keeper Dardan Djokaj went to dispossess Hamid Hassankhoo, only for Hamid to pass to the awaiting Holmes who had an open net to contend with. Metropolitan tried to pull one back, but were unable to break Fitzroy's 'stingy' defence as Fitzroy aimed to hit the 'sky blues' on the counter attack. Their plans came to fruition as Hassankhoo was able to bag two goals through sheer individual brilliance and earn a 3-0 lead at half-time. The second half saw Fitzroy inflict more pain on their stunned opponents as Holmes was at it again when he side footed into the back of the net past a lagging Djokaj. With the score at 4-0, even Fitzroy's key defender got forward to score! The ever increasing deficit was becoming too much for Metro captain Alja Redzepovic to deal with and decided to take matters into his own hands as he and forward partner Ivan Zilic added 3 goals in quick succession to make it 5-3 late in the game. But with time ticking away, Holmes again stepped up for Fitzroy to put the result beyond doubt as he earned his third goal for the night and completed the 6-3 final score-line. Metropolitan's defeat means that they slip out of the top four for the first time in three seasons! And by winning, Fitzroy were able to consolidate their top four status as they sit in outright third position and continue to surprise everyone with their consistency.

North Melbourne FC v FC Balwyn (6-5)

What a match-up we were faced with in the fourth game of round 9, as top ranked and NIKE V-League pace setters North Melbourne took on last placed Balwyn. But North were not to be sucked in by underestimating Balwyn, just as Hume discovered last round, because they are not intimidated by any side they come up against. North were without the services of leading goal-scorer Mirza Pedic, but were able to award a debut V-League cap to Japanese midfielder, Hara Yoshinao. Balwyn, also were without a key figure of their starting line-up, as their keeper Mario Roza was unavailable and replaced by youngster Frano Saric, who joined brothers Tony and Mark. Also on the topic of brothers, the Barrientos brothers were also going head-to-head as Jason (Balwyn) battled Jonathan (North) for bragging rights. Adam Cooper set North Melbourne's wheels in motion in the first half, as he was able to thump the ball past the young and inexperienced Frano. But Balwyn soon bounced back with the next three goals of the game through Ben Bodo, captain Tony Imeri and young striker Johnny Nikolakoudis – who scored the pick of the bunch as he coolly placed the ball between North keeper, Christos Apostolakis' legs! Just as Balwyn were happy to sit on their 3-1 lead to close out the first half, Nikolakoudis had got a hand-full of Jonathan Barrientos' top, which eventuated into a penalty which Adam Cooper was able to convert just before the first interval, making the score-line 3-2 in the underdogs favour. Pumped up after the break, Balwyn came out firing as Jason Barrientos found Ben Bodo's pass to make it 4-2. But the in a case of "anything you can do..." brother Jonathan was on hand to cancel out his brothers goal with a workman like effort from defence. North then took the lead in a matter of minutes through Alex Jankovic and Tiago Priori – both setting up each others goals – to make the score 5-4 with minutes remaining. The drama didn't end there as Nikolakoudis was able to take

advantage of a goal-mouth scramble to notch his brace and the equalise. Then with less than two minutes remaining, North first-gamer, Hara Yoshinao, completed a smartly taken 1-2 with Priori to claim a vital come from behind win. It was a good sign for North Melbourne as they continue to handle the burden of being 'top dog' with ease. As for Balwyn, it was another strong performance against another strong opposition. Survival seems likely week-by-week for the 'all whites' but they will need to be on their toes yet again as they go up against James Blackburn's Ashburton next week.

Hume FC v Pascoe Vale FC (3-3)

With the Pascoe Vale side watching the North boys escape with the three points in the previous game, the pressure was on the current league champions to respond – albeit against a Hume side that love the big stage and also need to redeem themselves for their poor performance in their 4-5 loss to Balwyn last week. Hume also had some very big inclusions as playmaker Diego Assada, along with defenders Resit Culculoglu and Nejdet Sahin. Mehmet Parlak and Fikri Bozdogan also returned. Hume's big out... their club top scorer, Turhan Sumbol. Will Sumbol's omission come back to hurt them? Pascoe Vale, still without regular keeper Greg Lascaris had recalled their former keeper (and ex-Prahran keeper) Jamie Tran and former Fitzroy player Alex Cobo, to cover the loss of Vadim Mazurkay (holiday) and Marcius Novak (injury). The game was shot into life when defender-cum-forward, Moe Tankir, was found all alone at the half-way line and blasted an absolute thunderbolt past Tran to open the scoring. Pascoe Vale - as they always do - hit back through a clever Joao Da Silva strike. He was clever enough to break the mark Resit Culculoglu had placed upon him to then put away Brenno Polatti's corner. Not even 10 minutes had past and there was another goal scored by Tankir as he dribbled the ball from halfway, then around a tired-looking Andre Caro who

didn't give chase. Caro had a chance to make amends minutes before halftime to convert a penalty, but he dragged it to the left and the score remained 2-1 at the break. The second half saw more end-to-end futsal as both sides battled for possession and opted to 'park the bus' and restrict each other to taking shots from distance. In the end, Pascoe Vale eventually were able to break down Hume's defensive set-up regain the lead through some Da Silva magic as he set up Richie Ferguson for 2-2 and then held his nerve to convert a late penalty to make it 3-2 with just over two minutes remaining. Trying to run out the clock, Pascoe Vale were caught napping as Resit Culculoglu's lobbed side ball found Tankir in the 'D' and he was able to slot past an advancing Tran. A disappointing result for Pascoe Vale as they are now 5 points behind table leaders North Melbourne and now have to face Metropolitan, Fitzroy and North Melbourne all within the next two weeks with a near bare-bones squad. Hume are again back to their giant killing best and earned their redemption. But surely with Sumbol's inclusion he could have added at least a goal?

Ashburton FC v FC Melbourne (6-1)

After Prahran's demolition of Albert Park earlier on in the night, Ashburton (in 9th) desperately needed to get the three points in their encounter with 10th placed Melbourne to keep in touch with the top 8. Their task would be made a little tougher as key play-maker, Mark Burton, would be sidelined through injury. Although they were able to add striker Simon La Manda to the squad for the first time since round 6. Both Ashburton and Melbourne's keeper woes continued as Matt Davoli (AFC) and Harry Kitharidis (FCM) made their debuts for their new sides, and their input in the first half was paramount as the first half was scoreless for the first 15 minutes of play. But it was Ashburton striker Dima Nichiforenco who broke the deadlock as he pounced upon a Kitharidis parry from a James Blackburn strike. The 'Green Machine's' lead was

then doubled shortly after when Simon La Manda ran off his mark – first gamer, Leon Dalle Nagare – and simply blasted over the top of Kitharidis. Just goes to show that there aren't many players out there who can just walk into the NIKE V-League and do well! Then to cap off the first half, James Blackburn made it 3-0 on the stroke of half time when he latched onto a beautiful La Manda through ball. The second half began very similar to the first as the score line was un-changed for 10 minutes until – with a weird sense of déjà vu – Nichiforenco, who continues to impress week after week, bobbed up to score from a well weighted Matt Davoli long throw. With Melbourne seeming impotent on goal, workman-like striker, David Fletcher, gave his side a glimmer of hope as he scored his first goal since round 3. With Melbourne continuing to pressure Ashburton, makeshift defender Ravel Tavares was able to bag his first goal in green colours as he got forward and blasted into the top corner from a cheeky little flick from Blackburn. With only seconds remaining, and Ashburton claiming the win, Blackburn was awarded with a penalty – after a two-footed challenge from Melbourne's Elias Stavridis – which he was able to convert to complete his brace and the 6-1 scoreline. It was an impressive display all around for Ashburton who now move into 7th, as young keeper, Davoli, commanded his defence like he had been in the league for years! Defender Moe Alghorabi also put in an impressive defensive display for his side. Melbourne on the other hand should be looking to the transfer window to "refresh" their squad, as they are in desperate need of a proven goal-scorer.

CF Brunswick v FC Essendon (12-4)

The last game of the night saw 5th ranked Brunswick pitted against an Essendon side breathing down the back of their necks in 6th. Brunswick manager had quite a smile on his face as he saw his regular #1 keeper Brendan Chen back between the sticks. The rest of the squad remained un-changed. Essendon also

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Nth Melbourne FC	9	8	1	0	80	39	41	25
2 Pascoe Vale FC	8	6	2	0	45	22	23	20
3 Fitzroy FC	8	6	0	2	49	33	16	18
4 CF Brunswick	9	5	1	3	60	44	16	16
5 Metropolitan FC	8	5	1	2	52	47	5	16
6 FC Prahran	9	3	2	4	59	46	13	11
7 Ashburton FC	9	3	2	4	54	64	-10	11
8 Hume FC	9	3	1	5	45	48	-3	10
9 FC Essendon	8	3	1	4	45	65	-20	10
10 FC Melbourne	9	2	0	7	29	55	-26	6
11 Albert Park FC	9	1	1	7	37	73	-36	4
12 FC Balwyn	9	1	0	8	33	52	-19	3

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 9 Wed June 29th

6:30 Albert Park FC v FC Prahran	2 - 14
7:15 Metropolitan FC v Fitzroy FC	3 - 6
8:00 Nth Melbourne FC v FC Balwyn	6 - 5
8:45 Hume FC v Pascoe Vale FC	3 - 3
9:30 Ashburton FC v FC Melbourne	6 - 1
10:15 CF Brunswick v FC Essendon	12 - 4

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 10

Wed July 6th

6:30 FC Essendon v FC Melbourne
7:15 Albert Park FC v Fitzroy FC
8:00 Metropolitan FC v Pascoe Vale FC
8:45 CF Brunswick v FC Prahran
9:30 Ashburton FC v FC Balwyn
10:15 Nth Melbourne FC v Hume FC

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1) J. Blackburn AFC	22
2) M. Nyadzayo CFB	20
3) A. Redzepovic Metro FC	18
4) M. Avram FCP	17
5) C. Holmes FFC	17

Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY & THEO SOUFIS

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BENTLEIGH GREENS



2

RICHMOND EAGLES



3

Match Details

Bentleigh Greens:
 P.Gavalas, W.Wallace
 (B.Liolios 75'), C.Smart
 (J.Calderone 83'),
 M.Gwyther, S.Bulloch,
 A.Rojas, A.Fadljevic,
 A.Wilford, J.Webster,
 L.Pilkington (P.Georgiou
 91'), R.De Vries.

Goals: De Vries 34' Gwyther
 52'

Yellow Cards: Gavalas,
 Bulloch, Webster

Red Cards: None

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola,
 E.Karahan (M.Eterovic 85'),
 R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger,
 T.Purcell, S.Muirhead,
 M.Catalano (D.Tsiaras 90'),
 N.Marinos (D.Bonne 77'),
 A.Kovacic, M.Ferrante.

Goals: Own Goal 12' Ferrante 48' Purcell 56'

Yellow Cards: None

Red Cards: None

Eagles End Greens' Hot Streak

By Mark Boric

Bentleigh Greens were looking to make it three wins in succession and keep in contention for a finals berth when they hosted Richmond on Friday night.

The Eagles entered the game fresher than expected, their Tuesday night clash with VTC Football at Knights Stadium postponed half an hour prior to kick off because of heavy fog. Ryan De Vries came back into the Greens starting line-up in place of Joey Calderone, the only change John Anastasiadis made to the side which beat St Albans 2-0. Michael Chatzirifinios brought in Andrew Viola for injured skipper Dimitri Tsiaras, who took a place on the bench.

Some end to end action commenced in the fifth minute, when a quick counter saw Michael Catalano carry the ball from his own half to deep in the right corner where he was fouled by Scott Bulloch. The free-kick was flicked on towards the far post where it was crossed back into the box by Scott Muirhead, the ball being cleared with Bentleigh moving into attack, De Vries finding Bulloch on the left who fired a shot across goal from just inside the penalty area.

Timmy Purcell nearly set up Nick Marinos with a back-heel in the penalty area in the eighth minute, the first touch of the Eagles striker letting him down after he had combined well with Catalano on the right to get the ball into the area. In the twelfth minute Antun Kovacic received the ball from Stjepan Gal and played it across the field for Purcell to run onto down the right. Purcell's cross to the far post saw Marinos force a save from Peter Gavalas with a header. A poor Bentleigh turnover saw Richmond get the ball back immediately and switch it to Michael Ferrante on the right, who's cross towards the penalty spot was turned into his own net by Aron Wilford as he tried to cut it out from reaching Marinos.

Muirhead's quick free-kick on the right beat everybody in the box, including a desperately sliding Kovacic, and flashed past the



Richmond take the lead after an unfortunate own goal by Aaron Wilford wrong foots Peter Gavalas.

Photo: ANITA MILAS

post in the eighteenth minute. Two minutes later Michael Gwyther skipped past two players to break through the middle and into the penalty area before being halted by some great covering from Kovacic.

Mitch Bissinger broke out of defence for the Eagles in the twenty-fifth minute, finding Marinos on the right who crossed into the box. Ferrante had been brought down making a run towards the penalty area and a free-kick was awarded, which he put just over the cross-bar.

De Vries drew his side back on level terms in sensational fashion in the thirty-fourth minute. Receiving the ball from a throw in on the left, he turned past Bissinger and used his pace to run through the Richmond defence, weaving his way deep into the penalty area before slotting the ball past Gal.

The equaliser provided the shift in momentum which saw the Greens finish the half strongly.

Wilford stayed forward after a set-piece and got the ball in the penalty area on the right, cutting back to send the ball back across goal where Erhan Karahan cleared off his line. In the forty-third minute a cross from Craig Smart near the right corner flag saw Jack Webster head narrowly wide, leaving the sides locked at 1-1 entering the break.

A dramatic opening to the second half began in the forty-seventh minute when some excellent pressuring from Catalano and Muirhead saw Wilford opt to pass back to Gavalas, but instead find Marinos who had only just started tracking back after chasing the original ball forward. Marinos was brought down as he tried to round Gavalas, with a penalty awarded. Ferrante stepped up and converted the spot-kick to put Richmond ahead again.

It was a lead which they would only hold for five minutes. A ball forward to Gwyther saw Kovacic chase him towards the corner of

the penalty area before leaving the ball for his keeper as Gal called for it. A catastrophic miss-kick allowed Gwyther to run through and stroke the ball into the empty net to make it 2-2.

Just three minutes later, the Eagles gained the lead for a third time. Ferrante found Marinos who made a run up the middle and shot from twenty-two yards. Gavalas was only able to parry the ball and Purcell sprung onto the rebound and slammed it into the net before the keeper could re-gather it.

The goals then dried up, but the game remained open with some defending that would have had both benches concerned. A nice ball inside from Purcell to Catalano just failed to come off in the sixty-seventh minute. Marinos shot at Gavalas after a neat turn on the left of the penalty area before drama at the opposite end when a corner clearance fell to Bulloch who's shot was deflected across the box with Bentleigh appealing

for a penalty in the skirmish that followed.

A cross from Smart saw Alex Rojas head wide in the seventyninth minute. A great ball from Purcell put Catalano through in the middle but his shot was well saved by Gavalas. Adam Fadljevic almost got through on the left but Karahan got back to block his path before Kovacic cleared. Muirhead almost had a chance on the counter but the ball bobbed away from him. Richmond nervously rode out the final ten minutes of the game to record their second win in a row and virtually assure their place in

the AVPL for 2012. Bentleigh will look to get their pursuit of a Top Five place back on track when the visit Hume City on Saturday, but it will not be an easy task meeting the league leaders. Richmond will host South Melbourne on the same day.



Richmond's Timmy Purcell is on hand to tap home the rebound after a Nick Marinos' shot on the run. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Bentleigh's Ryan De Vries continues his rich vein of form in front of goal with a superbly taken solo effort. Inset: And celebrates to boot! Photo: ANITA MILAS

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



0

By Andrew Fisher

The Melbourne Knights have recorded a famous one-nil victory over the Oakleigh Cannons on Friday night at Jack Edwards Reserve.

A penalty early into the second half was enough for the Knights to secure their second consecutive 1-0 win over much more fancied opponents. What makes the win all the more impressive for the visitors was that their squad was entirely made of players under the age of 25.

The opening twenty minutes of the match was a dull contest, with the only effort on goal a Franjic drive from outside the box that was easily saved by Zois in the home goal.

Oakleigh were forced to make an early substitution when Ricky Diaco came off due to injury and replaced by former Knights player Joshua Groenewald, the sub almost had an immediate impact when he won possession inside the area only to screw his low shot just wide of the mark.

The Knights gave a full debut to new signing Kayne Vincent a New Zealand striker who was previously plying his trade in India, and Josip Magdic did his best to assist his team mate with a debut goal, however Vincent could only direct his header directly at Zois.

After a dull opening half from the home side, the Cannons immediately got onto the front foot in the second half, Ante Cicak set up

Hayden Doyle who drew a good save from Aaron Romein in the Knights goal.

With the home side pushing forward, the Knights hit the on the break with Kayne Vincent adjudged to be fouled inside the area and a penalty awarded. Without the experience of Kozic, Jacob Colosimo stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong way to give the Knights' the lead.

Oakleigh pushed forward in numbers, however found the Knights defence equal to the task and young keeper Aaron Romein in exceptional form. Hayden Doyle witnessed this first hand when he found himself one on one with Romein only to draw an excellent save from the keeper.

It just didn't look like the home side were destined to get anything from this contest, especially when Stephen Hatzikostas somehow managed to hit the crossbar from a metre out with the keeper already beaten.

After this scare, the Knights dropped numbers back and held off the Cannons in a frantic final ten minutes that saw plenty of tough challenges fly, to record a hard worked and well deserved three points.

The Knights will attempt to make it three in a row when they take on Heidelberg United on Friday night at Knights Stadium, whilst the Oakleigh Cannons will look to get back onto the winners list when they face St Albans on Sunday afternoon.

Goals: J. Colosimo 50'.

Man of the Match A. Romein (Mk)



Man of the Match Aaron Romein in full flight as he thwarts another Cannons attack.

Photo: PETER KAKALIAS



The Knights knock off its second major scalp in successive weeks and celebrate Jacob Colosimo's penalty. Photo: PETER KAKALIAS



Jacob Colosimo puts the nail in the Cannons' coffin.

Photo: PETER KAKALIAS



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GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



1

Finals Football Loom for Gully

By Sacha Pisani

An experienced performance by Green Gully captain Jeffrey Fleming inspired his team to an important 1-0 win over Dandenong Thunder at Green Gully Reserve on a windy Saturday afternoon.

After a disappointing 4-0 defeat at the hands of Hume City last week, Jason Hayne secured all 3 points for the Cavaliers and kept their Final's aspects well and truly alive with a goal 6 minutes before the break.

The result capped off a disappointing week for the Thunder after Steven Gray was appointed Coach following Chris Taylor's decision to move on after just one week in charge.

With the wind at Gully's advantage, Dandenong were the ones to dominate proceedings early on and had a penalty shout turned down after Ashley Stott was brought down in the box.

After initially struggling to keep possession in tough conditions, Gully began to take control. Vargas and Fleming were beginning to stamp their authority on the match and it was Vargas who was at the centre of Green Gully's first chance in the half after delivering a well-taken set piece to Mile Medjedovic who had his header blocked for a corner.

Gully came close to breaking the deadlock after Munoz' cross-come-shot forced Stuart Webster into action as he parried the shot for a corner.

Some impressive link up play from Matthew Sanders and Brent Fisher saw Webster back amongst the action as a through ball narrowly evaded Hayne and into the hands of the Scotsman.

As Gully started to look dangerous and control the middle of the park, Set pieces were becoming the only real option for Thunder against the wind.

A well taken corner from fell to the towering Rexhepi who came close with a powerful header that just went over the bar.

Hayne was proving a handful for the Thunder defence and in the 39th



Jason Hayne scores the winner for Green Gully.

Photo: STEVE STAREK

minute his hard work payed off. After some nice link up play with Sanders, the Tasmanian forced Webster into a save but Hayne was there tuck away the rebound and give Gully the lead heading into halftime.

With minutes remaining in the first half, Munoz was stretchered from the ground with a knee injury after a 50/50 challenge with Jerad Barnes left him worse for wear.

Dandenong began the 2nd half with the wind advantage and slowly began to dictate possession without really testing Roganovic in goal.

Penalty shouts on Sherbon and Stott were both turned down as the half went by but it wasn't until the 67th minute that the match sprung to life. After a number of attacks, Matthew Theodore created some room inside the box and his shot struck the crossbar.

As Fleming showed his quality and experience in the midfield, Gully won a free kick against the run of play and Graham Hockless came within a whisker of doubling the lead with his fierce shot flashing past the post.

Thunder maintained their pressure on the Gully defence and a moment of brilliance from Sherbon nearly sent Dandenong home with a share of the spoils. Following a clever

turn, Sherbon unleashed a vicious shot that narrowly missed the top corner.

Despite controlling majority of the 2nd half, Dandenong failed to make the most of their wind advantage and rarely forced Roganovic into action.

With the match ending 1-0, Green Gully continues to climb the table and consolidate a place in the top 5.

Gully coach Lubo Lapsansky commented after the game, "It was a game of two halves. We had a bit of luck, we could've scored more and we could've conceded. I said to the boys, regardless of what's happening down at Dandenong in the last couple of weeks, they've still got a good side, with good players. They showed it today. Could've got a point. Fortunately for us we got through."

New Thunder player-coach Steven Gray commented on being asked to take over the head coach position. "Absolutely it was a surprise. I like a challenge. It's great to be able to work with a really good group of players. Certainly a challenge I'm looking forward to, so I'd like to thank the board for the opportunity."

Today, I thought we played well, I'm just disappointed we didn't



The Green Machine are back on finals track.

Photo: STEVE STAREK

get any sort of result. I think they (Gully) came off at the end of the game, thinking we don't know how we got out of there with a win. But they're at home and they're a strong side, a big strong physical side. I said to the boys, 'Disappointed as I am to lose the game, there's a small part inside of me that's quite happy with what we're doing'."

Confirmation came through today that Dandenong had lost Jack Hingert to the A-League. Coach Gray said, "It seems to be going a bit wrong for us at the moment (with injuries and players leaving).

But look there's some good players with the Under 21s there that are going to have to come in. It will be a great experience for them."

Dandenong must regroup after a turbulent week and focus on their upcoming match against cellar dwellers Springvale White Eagles at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

Green Gully travel to John Cain Memorial Park next Saturday as they clash with fellow Final's candidate, Northcote City and will be hoping for another 3 points in their quest for Final's football.

Match Details

Green Gully :

1. Nikola Roganovic, 2. Daniel Jones, 4. Cameron Drake, 6. Stephen Downes, 7. Jeffrey Fleming, 8. Jason Hayne (P.Vizzari 88')
9. Brent Fisher 12. Matthew Sanders (H.Basma 81')
17. Andy Vargas, 18. Mile Medjedovic, 19. Jonathon Munoz (G.Hockless 45+')

Goals: Hayne 39'

Yellow Cards: Vargas 55', Roganovic 58'

Red Cards: Nil.

Dandenong Thunder:

1. Stuart Webster, 5. Steven Gray, 13. Shane Rexhepi, 3. Ben Harrison (F.Ibraimi 76')
6. Acim Tomic, 8. Matthew Theodore, 17. Liam Kearney, 10. Ashley Stott, 16. Jerad Barnes, 7. Scott Webster, 20. Luke Sherbon

Yellow Cards: Scott Webster 14', Tomic 56'

Red Cards: Nil.

Man Of The Match:

Jeffrey Fleming (Green Gully)



Skills skool! Michael Anderson and Luke Sherbon put on the party tricks.

Photo: STEVE STAREK



Thunder press forward in search of an equalizer and put keeper Nikola Roganovic under pressure. Photo: STEVE STAREK

SOUTH MELBOURNE



1

By John Kyrou

South Melbourne FC maintained its hold of third position on the Victorian Premier League ladder with a scrappy 1-0 victory against St Albans at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon.

Steven Weir was the hero for the home side as he scored the winning goal in the second half. The win moves South to 34 points, two points behind second-placed Oakleigh and opens up a two point lead against fourth-placed Heidelberg United. The defeat leaves St Albans in 11th position on the ladder with 12 points, with the Saints still 12 points from safety with only four League matches left.

Sunday's fixture was always going to be a difficult one for South, with the team having struggled to beat the Saints 0-2 at Churchill Reserve earlier in the season on Sunday 3 April. On that occasion, Fernando De Moraes and Kyle Joryeff scored to give the away side the victory, however both started on the bench on Sunday. Weir began the match alone up front and could have scored his first goal in the first half but for the intervention of Saints goalkeeper Steven Pavlovic, who got his big frame down to make several important saves and keep the scoreline at 0-0. His best save came from a move that began with a chip ball from Carl Recchia that was nodded into Kliment Taseski's path by Weir, with Taseski's shot at the near post forcing him to make an excellent reflex save to keep the ball

out. At the other end, Zaim Zeneli was hardly troubled but was lucky not to concede when Louis Fenton weasled between two South defenders to set up a one-on-one opportunity but let himself down by spraying his final shot well wide.

The game was won in the 57th minute when Kliment Taseski won the ball and played a wonderful through-ball for Weir to run onto. With Pavlovic advancing, the Scotsman beat the Saints custodian to the ball and poked the ball goalwards, where he followed through and tapped the ball into the back of the net after it rolled onto the post and stopped on the goal line. St Albans lifted their intensity and pressed forward searching for an equalising goal, however Zeneli was hardly seriously tested despite having to deal with a couple of free kicks just outside the area. De Moraes and Joryeff were both subbed on during the half and their presence up forward not only helped Weir but also created several opportunities for the home side to finish the game as a contest, which they could not manage. St Albans won a corner in the fifth minute of injury time and Pavlovic charged up the field for the corner, which he very nearly got his head on to score what would have been a sensational equalising goal.

After the match, SMFC Assistant Coach Joe Montemurro remarked that "this was always going to be a difficult match as St Albans had nothing (and everything) to lose. We know we are under pressure and today



Steven Weir rounds 'keeper Steven Pavlovic and dribbles the ball home, and celebrates with teammates accordingly (below). Photo: CINDY NITSOS

was all about winning the three points." On the injury front, he mentioned that "Junior (Camaro) may hopefully be ok in two weeks, apart from him and Jesse Krncevic (who serves one more match as a suspension) we almost have a full squad to choose from, which is great."

Next Saturday 9 July, South travels to Kevin Bartlett Reserve to face the Richmond Eagles, knowing that a victory there could almost seal a finals place this season. Kick-off is at 15:00. St Albans has had its League match against the Oakleigh Cannons next Sunday rescheduled for Sunday 24 July as it has been scheduled to play Ballarat Red Devils in the Mirabella Cup on Saturday 9 July at Trekardo Park at 13:00.



ST ALBANS SAINTS		0
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Match Details

South Melbourne FC:
2. Tom MATTHEWS, 3. Rhodri PAYNE, 4. Steven O'DOR, 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI (25. Kyle JORYEFF 72'), 6. Steven TOPALOVIC, 8. Carl RECCHIA, 10. Kliment TASESKI (18. Marinos GASPARIS 90+4'), 16. Trent WATERSON (15. Fernando DE MORAES 63'), 17. Steven WEIR, 21. Zaim ZENELI, 23. Sebastian PETROVIC

Goal Scorer:
1-0: Steven Weir (57')

St Albans Saints:

1. Steven PAVLOVIC, 5. Brian CHEESSON, 13. Neven ANTIC, 23. Tomishu MILARDOVIC, 19. Michael GRGIC, 4. Maks CUZE, 18. Daniel PIOVESAN, 17. Reardo LUKA, 10. Daniel VISEVIC, 15. Louis FENTON, 9. Mathew DEMO
Subs: 20. Frano SARIC, 8. Themistokles ANTHONY, 11. Ovan Oztemir, 32. Daniel DRAGOVIC, 21. Ivan LIJOVIC

Man of the Match: Steven Pavlovic (St Albans)
Venue: John Cain Memorial Park
Date: Sunday 3 July 2011



South Melbourne's Seb Petrovic plays a game of twister with Louis Fenton.
Photo: CINDY NITSOS



Kyle Joryeff skips past Michael Grgic's sliding tackle.
Photo: CINDY NITSOS

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HEIDELBERG UNITED



2

NORTHCOTE CITY



1

Match Details

Heidelberg United Line-Up:
 Griffin MC MASTER (GK) (Jason KOUTSODONTIS 84'); Craig ELVIN, Luke BYLES, Steve MARTIN, Hamlet ARMENIAN (Andrew NAB-BOUT 78'), Nick TRAVIS, Evan CHRISTODOLOU, Les DOUMBALIS (Shaun MCILROY 31'), Yarod HAILEMELKOT, Saso ALEKSOVSKI, Osagie EDERADO

Subs Not Used: George PAPADOPOULOS, Denis ALILOVIC

Goals: Aleksovski 60', McIlroy 65'
Yellow Cards: Elvin, Travis, Hailemalkot

Northcote City Line-Up:
 Chris THEODORIDIS-PETROPOULOS (GK), Hayden D'AGOSTINO, Kristian KONSTANDINIDIS, Paul SAVIO, Jason TRIFIRO (Nicholas CURTIS 73'), Dean PIERMONTE, Jonathon VOULGARIS 84'), James KALIFATIDIS, Trent RIXON, Nick TZOULIS, Adriano CHIAPETTA, Harry KINIGOPoulos (Gianni DI NITTIS 78')

Subs Not Used: Charles TREACY (GK), Rodrigo COVARRUBIAS

Goal: Kalafatidis 70'
Yellow Cards: D'Agostino, Chiapetta, Konstantinidis, Tzoulis, Di Nittis

Player of the Match: Luke Byles (Heidelberg United)

Crowd: approx. 1250, at the Olympic Village, Heidelberg

Super Saso Strike Lights Up Derby

By John Fotinos

Heidelberg United have overcome rival & neighbour Northcote City 2-1 in their Round 18 clash in the Alanic VPL competition at the Olympic Village tonight. In what has become a typically feisty match-up between these two sides over recent fixtures, the game came alight in an incident-packed second half.

Heidelberg made one change to its starting line-up after its 1-0 away loss to Oakleigh, welcoming back midfielder Nicky Travis to replace Alilovic. Not surprisingly, Northcote City fielded an unchanged starting eleven on the back of its 6-0 win at Dandenong.

Heidelberg had the first meaningful attempt on goal after five minutes, when Aleksovski hit a free kick that was beaten away by Petropoulos. However, it was Northcote captain Trent Rixon who might well have opened the scoring after twelve minutes, when he beat the offside trap only for his shot to go narrowly wide of both an advancing McMaster & the near post.

Just after the half hour mark, Heidelberg were forced to bring on Sean McIlroy for Les Doumbalis, who appeared to receive a thigh injury. Shortly after this, Heidelberg missed two clear chances to take the lead within two minutes. Firstly, Saso Aleksovski shot wide from close range, and then Hamlet Armenian volleyed over with the goal at his mercy.

With the teams locked at 0-0 at the main break, few could have envisioned the action-packed second half. Just eight minutes after the re-start, referee Alex Lord sensationally produced a red card to Heidelberg coach George Katsakis, presumably for dissent. With the send-off of Katsakis, and with the healthy crowd barely having had time to consider the ramifications of that, up stepped Heidelberg's Saso Aleksovski. Just on the hour mark, he received the ball from a throw-in on the right, and with a turn inside found a yard of space, before hitting a pure volley from all of 30 metres

out. His dipping shot beat Petropoulos all ends up, nestling in the top corner, and sending the home contingent into raptures.

Just five minutes after the contender for goal of the season, Heidelberg went two goals up courtesy of Sean McIlroy. After Northcote City had twice failed to clear the ball, a cross from Steve Martin found Armenian on the right. The latter's low cross was smashed home from close range by a jubilant McIlroy, with Heidelberg's faithful now sensing the three points might be secured.

Northcote City fought back immediately, but Tzoulis squandered a great opportunity after McMaster parried a Rixon shot, when he shot over from ten metres. Just minutes later, the visitors pulled a goal back through James Kalafatidis. Skipper Trent Nixon was fouled by Nicky Travis just inside the penalty box, and Kalafatidis set up an intriguing final 20 minutes, when he fired home the ball from the penalty save by McMaster, with the ball rebounding to him obligingly after McMaster had guessed correctly.

With Northcote throwing men forward in search of an equaliser, there was late drama when in the 84th minute, Heidelberg were forced to bring on substitute 'keeper Jason Koutsodontis to replace an injured Griffin McMaster. This followed a clash between McMaster & Kalafatidis which saw the 'keeper sustain a leg injury that led to a lengthy delay & subsequent substitution of McMaster. In the final minutes, there was yet another injury blow for Heidelberg, when skipper Craig Elvin was stretchered off with a knee injury, but to the delight of the home fans, Heidelberg United ran out 2-1 winners and maintain its fourth spot on the table.

Next Friday night at 8:15pm, Heidelberg United travels to Somers St to take on a resurgent Melbourne Knights team, whereas seventh-placed Northcote City hosts Green Gully, currently in fifth spot, at John Cain Reserve next Saturday at 3:00pm. In the Under-21's fixture this evening, Northcote City 2 defeated Heidelberg United 0.



Heidelberg's Saso Aleksovski lets one fly all the way to the top corner.

Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Heidelberg players celebrate Saso Aleksovski's wonder strike

. Photo: PETER PSARROS



Northcote City fans make themselves heard.

Photo: PETER PSARROS



Heidelberg coach George Katsakis is ordered from the touchlines.

Photo: PETER PSARROS

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES

1

High Drama As Acevski Saves The Day

HUME CITY

2
Match Details
Springvale White Eagles:

23. Scott AGUSTIN, 4. Boris BAJIC, 5. Jason CORBETT, 6. Gjoko PONJEVIC, 8. Gordan MRDIC, 10. Colin WOODS, 12. Dushan NIKOLIC, 16. Dominic D'ANGELO, 17. Zoran VUKAS, 19. Goran ZORIC, 24. Lewis KARANICOLAS. SUBS: 1. Bojo JEVDEJECIC, 2. Alp CANUZCU, 20. Vujadin MILOJEVIC, 21. Dejan EDAKOVIC, 22. Daniel PAUNOV.

Hume City :

1. Lupce ACEVSKI, 22. Philip RICCOPENE, 6. Serdar PIR, 5. Steven PACE, 7. Isyan ERDOGAN, 9. Pece SIVESKI, 10. Richie CARDOZO, 15. Zoran PETREVSKI, 4. Mark PISTININZI, 12. Ross THOMPSON, 25. Atilla OFLI. SUBS: 3. Fab DELIZIA, 21. Dusko DELIC, 15. Slave BOZINOVSKI, 13. Alex FLOREA, 18. Kenny GEROH.

By Milan Ninovic

Hume City has put itself in pole position to take out the VPL Minor premiership after defeating Springvale White Eagles 2-1 in sensational circumstances at White Eagles Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

The hero of the hour for Hume City was goalkeeper Lupce Acevski who pulled off a magnificent one handed penalty save from Springvale's Zoran Vukas deep into injury time to secure another vital three points just when a draw seemed imminent.

As the match headed towards full time and with Hume City with their noses in front by 2-1, players were waiting for a White Eagles free-kick to be taken, when a scuffle between players broke out behind play in the penalty box.

The referee conferred to the linesman, but amidst the confusion the wrong Hume player was actually pointed out and a red card was shown to Issy Erdogan when in actual fact it was Slave Bozinovski who was guilty of the behind the scenes misdemeanour.

The incident behind play seemed to involve an elbow to the face. Nevertheless, the penalty still stood, and a golden opportunity went begging for White Eagles to deservedly salvage something out of the game as it ended in high drama.

Earlier in the match Hume maintained the bulk of possession as it open brightly and dictated the play.

Richard Cardozo continued his blistering form in front of goals and scored from a direct free-kick to notch his 15th goal this season, putting him four goals clear his nearest challenger (Heidelberg's Osagie Edararo) with four games to go in the quest for the Golden Boot award.

With an expected lead Hume seemed to take the foot off the pedal somewhat and White Eagles began to create their own share of chances – and actually hit the crossbar on a couple of occasions from dangerous counter attacks.

Hume however held the advantage going into the break but it seemed that the one goal cushion may not be enough for the visitors.

Early in the second half White Eagles got their just rewards when a mix up in the Hume defence enabled Dominic D'Angelo to level the scores.

Whilst the match was evenly balanced it wasn't long before Hume again grabbed the ascendancy and took control of the scoreline.

A mistake by White Eagles player-coach Bojo Jevdejevic in goals handed Erdogan a simple tap in as it capitalised on its authority.

With all still to play for, the intensity of the match seemed to lift a gear for the final stanza of the match, before high drama unfolded culminating in the red card and penalty deep into stoppage time of the match.

With Hume's nearest minor premiership challenger Oakleigh losing 1-0 to Melbourne Knights on Friday night, the three points could not have come at a better time for Andy Vlahos' men, and with a match against VTC on Wednesday night, the opportunity to put some daylight between itself and the chasing pack is a distinct possibility with four rounds to play.

Asked if he was happy with his team's performance Hume player-coach Andy Vlahos commented, "No, not really. It was definitely not up to our standards and at the end of the day it could have cost us. We seem to be taking our foot off the pedal against these weaker teams, and it has to be looked at seriously and we have to make sure to fix it. I don't know why but we seem to battle against all the lower teams."

Asked how it looks as far as the minor title is concerned, Vlahos replied, "Hopefully we win against NTC on Wednesday to kick a few points further ahead, but I'm more concerned with our performance at the moment."

Could this be the year of the ambitious Turkish outfit? Well, with a quality squad of players who can still come away with full points after a below par performance, you'd better start believing so.

It displays all the hallmarks of a championship winning season. One thing is for sure after the latest round of fixtures, is that it appears as though Hume City has jockeyed itself nicely into a position whereby the minor premiership is theirs for the taking.



Hume celebrate after Richard Cardozo scores one of the goals of the season from a free-kick. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Goran Zoric has a crack at goals as Serdar Pir applies the pressure.
Photo: ANITA MILAS



Issy Erdogan is on hand to pounce on Bojo Jevdejevic's blunder. Bojo came on to replace Scott Agustin after he dislocated a finger. Photo: ANITA MILAS


Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume City	19	11	6	2	43	21	39
Oakleigh Cannons	20	11	3	6	35	26	36
South Melbourne	20	10	4	6	32	28	34
Green Gully Cavaliers	19	09	3	7	36	23	30
Bentleigh Greens	20	08	6	6	30	24	30
Heidelberg Utd	18	09	5	4	38	18	29
Northcote City	18	08	5	5	43	27	29
Dandenong Thunder	18	09	4	5	33	22	25
Melbourne Knights	19	06	6	7	29	25	24
Richmond Eagles	19	07	3	9	26	35	24
St Albans Saints	20	03	3	14	24	47	12
Springvale White Eagles	20	02	6	12	19	52	12
VTC Football	18	04	0	14	21	61	12

Alanic VPL Round 19

Wed 6 Jul 8:30PM V.T.C v Hume City

Sat 9 Jul 3:00PM Richmond Eagles v South Melbourne Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Fri 8 Jul 8:15PM Melbourne Knights v Heidelberg Utd Knights Stadium

Sat 9 Jul 3:00PM Northcote City v Green Gully Cavaliers John Cain Memorial

Sat 9 Jul 3:00PM Dandenong Thunder v Springvale White Eagles George Andrews Reserve

Sun 24 Jul 3:00PM St Albans Saints v Oakleigh Cannons Churchill Reserve

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	GD	Pt
South Melbourne	20	12	4	4	41	24	40
Hume City	19	12	3	4	54	23	39
Melbourne Knights	20	11	5	4	56	27	38
Oakleigh Cannons	19	11	4	4	50	30	37
Green Gully Cavaliers	19	8	5	6	35	28	29
Heidelberg Utd	17	8	3	6	34	30	27
Richmond	20	8	2	10	35	53	25
Northcote City	17	7	3	7	30	31	24
VTC Football	18	7	2	9	36	43	22
Dandenong Thunder	19	6	3	10	32	40	21
Bentleigh Greens	20	5	4	11	36	48	19
Springvale White Eagles	20	5	1	14	29	66	16
St Albans Saints	20	2	5	13	25	50	8

Bentleigh Greens 3
Richmond 1

Oakleigh Cannons 3
Melbourne Knights 3,

Green Gully Cavaliers 2
Dandenong Thunder 0

South Melbourne 4
St Albans Saints 0

Springvale White Eagles 0
Hume City 5,

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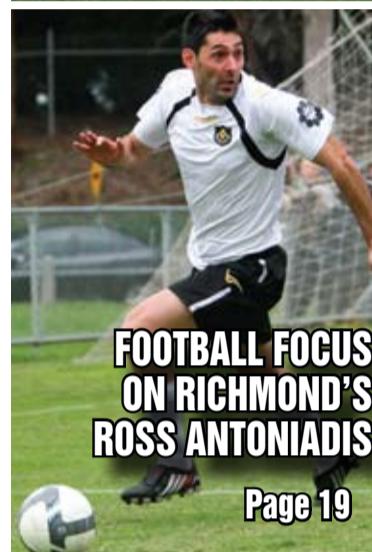
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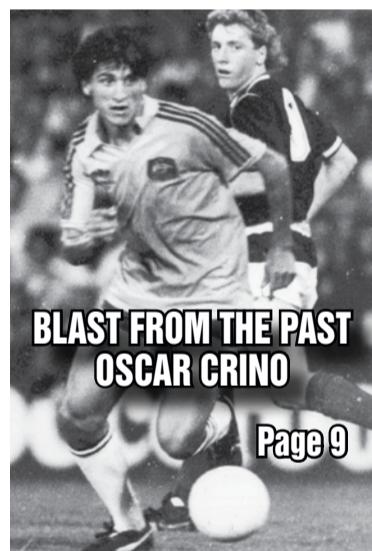
CELTIC
DOWN UNDER

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FOOTBALL FOCUS
ON RICHMOND'S
ROSS ANTONIADIS

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BLAST FROM THE PAST
OSCAR CRINO

Page 9



KNIGHTS SURPRISE
FOR A SECOND WEEK

Page 27

It's not every day you get to lead your country out at the World Cup finals. Matildas captain Melissa Barbieri proudly does the honours for their opening match against Brazil.

Photo:PAUL LAU



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